

Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)
Statements to the 25th Session of the ISA Council (Part I)

<http://dosi-project.org>

25th February 2019

Agenda Item 11: Draft Regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

- Content and development of standards and guidelines for activities in the Area under the Authority's regulatory framework (ISBA/25/C/3)

Thank you for giving us the floor Madam President. As this is our first time speaking during this session, we would like to join others in congratulating you on your election.

The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative fully agrees with the intervention made by Germany and Pew Charitable Trusts, and would like to applaud the progress made in outlining the development of Standards and Guidelines. We support the idea of listing environmental assessment guidelines as a priority area. However, we are concerned that the development of standards and guidelines is noted as being primarily an industry-driven initiative. We believe that these standards and guidelines should be driven by states and supported by scientists and other stakeholders. In particular, the scientific community can assist in developing quantitative environmental thresholds and trigger points to ensure effective protection of the marine environment. As a community that includes hundreds of scientific experts, DOSI is standing by to offer input.

Focusing on the environmental thresholds and trigger points, these can only be established in a regional context. Accordingly, before environmental performance standards for contractors are established, DOSI recommends that environmental goals and objectives be set for the entire Area as well as at the regional level. The connection between regional environmental goals and objectives, as well as the performance standards, emphasizes the need to have fully implemented regional environmental management plans in place before awarding exploitation contracts.

Thank you Madam President.