

**Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)  
Statements to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISA Council (Part I)**

<http://dosi-project.org>

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

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

- Relationship between the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and regional environmental management plans (ISBA/25/C/4)
- Implementation of the Authority's strategy for the development of regional environmental management plans for the Area (ISBA/25/C/13)

Thank you, Madam President.

The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative welcomes the suggestion made in the Secretariat Note ISBA/25/C/4 to 'require that the environmental management and monitoring plans of contractors be assessed against objectives in the regional environmental management plans'. DOSI supports this suggestion. If the EMMP does not sufficiently work towards those objectives, and we would add satisfactory targets and measurable indicators, the EMMP should be revised or rejected. However, we would like to stress the importance of setting environmental objectives of REMPs before applications for exploitation contracts in the relevant region are considered. This will ensure decisions are made transparently and measured against consistent environmental goals and objectives.

As a more general point, DOSI welcomes the Authority's efforts to develop REMPs in all relevant regions, as well as the establishment of an ad-hoc advisory committee comprised of experts to guide this process.

REMPs are key to maintaining the biodiversity and integrity of the global oceans and offer an opportunity to establish environmental goals and objectives at a regional level, which can be integrated with those for the entire Area under a future environmental policy. REMPs also act as an important component in the application of adaptive management, whereby the newest and best available scientific information concerning deep-sea habitats, biodiversity and mining impacts can be used to update regional plans.

As a community of hundreds of deep-sea scientific experts, DOSI stands ready to provide the relevant expertise.

Thank you Madam President.