

**Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)
Statements to the 25th Session of the ISA Council (Part 2)**

<http://dosi-project.org>

16th July 2019

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

- **Part 1**

As this is the first time the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative takes the floor, please allow us to extend our continued support to you Madame President. The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative, a scientific network dedicated to bringing deep-sea scientific expertise to environmental management of the deep ocean, would like to address Part I Regulation 4 which raises the topic of Serious Harm. The term Serious Harm appears 15 times within the Draft Regulations including in Regulations 4, 28, 50, 99, Annex 5 and in Schedule 1, where it is defined as **any effect from activities in the Area on the Marine Environment which represents a significant adverse change in the Marine Environment determined according to the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority on the basis of internationally recognized standards and practices informed by Best Available Scientific Evidence**. The ability to determine what will cause, threaten to cause or to minimize Serious Harm to the marine environment will depend on the strategic environmental objectives of the ISA, and the targets and thresholds associated with these, which remain to be identified and agreed upon. These objectives and targets will provide the basis for development of REMPs, EIAs, design of baseline and monitoring programs, and other environmental measures including cessation of mining. Scientific expertise is required to identify the indicators of serious harm, given that this definition will determine if it is necessary to avoid mining or cease production. Given the importance of defining serious harm for the both the Exploitation Regulations and the REMP development process, DOSI encourages the urgent formation of a LTC coordinated working group as a vehicle to permit input of best available science on serious harm and its indicators. We support Japan in suggesting that binding standards of serious harm are developed in an inclusive and transparent manner, prior to finalizing the exploitation regulations.

Thank you Madame President.