

# Workshop 3 – Designing Environmental Standards

Moderator: Gordon Paterson

Rapporteur: Alison Swaddling

## Working Group Objective: try to work out a way forward for developing environmental standards

- Discussion of the different categories of DSM activities, what their impacts are and if there are any existing standards, or significant gaps.
- Of all the activities/impacts we noted that Plumes were of most concern. However, many of the impacts are linked, and should therefore not be addressed in isolation.
- We noted that there were some examples of existing standards that could potentially be applicable to the various phases of the mining cycle. I.e.
  - *dredging* – however we noted that the difference in environments (depth) meant it would not be directly applicable.
  - *shipping* - how two vessels interact, transfer of hazardous materials etc. will not need to be rewritten and that we need to only focus on the differences that DSM brings.

- For existing standards that are somewhat applicable, we could look at:
  - 1) the methods used to develop
  - 2) what were their objectives
  - 3) how they met the objectives with the standards.
- Also we need to take into consideration the many existing (and new) *engineering* standards and how they will relate to *environmental* standards.
- We noted that differing technology's will have different impacts, and therefore thresholds should be set that engineers can meet.
- We want to achieve a certain level of performance, but not prescribe methodology
- Defining objectives/ thresholds need to allow flexibility in how to achieve them
  - i.e. not just limit spatial footprint of impact area, but also consider the thickness of sediment deposition.

# Way forward - recommendations for workshop report

- **Workshop:** Environmental Goals and Objectives **Input from REMPs?**
  - Needs to be derived from Art 145 and those on pollution
  - Identify consequence of impacts
  - Establish acceptable impacts
- **Workshop:** Environmental Standards and Guidelines
  - Benthic / pelagic focus
    - Experts may be different
  - Participants: Scientists, technologists/engineers, ISA, contractors, policy makers from national jurisdiction who have experience in developing and implementing standards
    - Importance for contractors to be involved as they have data
  - Agreed that Nodules are an important focus

**Parked Item:** Importance of collating relevant standards, and review of their applicability, and distribution prior to the workshop

**Main Take Away:** Overall high level environmental objectives need to be developed first before we can begin looking at objectives for each impact/ activity