

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

Informal Working Group - Environment

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete.

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

China

2. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Annex IV

3. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

4.7 Chemical oceanographic setting

including the structure and development (if applicable) of the oxygen minimum zone in particular near the sea floor (up to 200m above bottom)

5.4 Biological environment

~~The description needs to detail fauna communities in the water column down to the Mining Area, including migratory and highly mobile species, their relationship to the natural habitat, including the mineral resource, and the functional ecological relationships across groups to assess the scale of impacts to be expected if mining occurs.~~

6.2 Existing uses

6.2.1 Fisheries

~~If the project area occurs within an area used by fisheries, then this needs to be described here. This should include description of areas of significance for fish stocks, such as spawning grounds, nursery areas or feeding sites as well as ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.~~

6.2.2 Marine traffic

~~This section describes the non-project related marine traffic occurring within the project area.~~

9.2.1 Existing uses

9.2.1.1 Fisheries

~~A description of potential impacts and issues to be addressed, along with proposed management measures and a description of residual impacts.~~

~~**9.2.1.1.1 Potential impacts and issues to be addressed**~~

~~**9.2.1.1.2 Environmental management measures to mitigate impacts**~~

~~**9.2.1.1.3 Residual impacts**~~

~~**9.2.1.2 Marine traffic**~~

~~A description of potential impacts on non-project related marine traffic occurring within the project area, along with proposed management measures and a description of residual impacts.~~

11.2 Environmental management system

The applicant has to demonstrate that it will be capable of managing ~~all~~ appropriate relevant environmental questions, and outline the standards that will be considered and/or aligned with when developing the system for the project.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150 word limit]

On 4.7, it is very difficult to discover the structure and development of the oxygen minimum zone in currently understanding on deep sea environment, especially for the development of the oxygen minimum zone, which requires abundant in-situ monitoring data with enough long time to reveal the development process of oxygen minimum zone, Contractors can not meet the requirement of characteristics description based on current collected data.

On 5.4, the requirement involves the frontier issues of basic science, such as connectivity, ecosystem function and life-history, which are obviously beyond Contractors' scientific research capacity and beyond their obligations under the contract.

On 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 9.2.1.1 and 9.2.1.2, according to the Exploration Regulations, the applicant should ensure that relevant installations "are not established where interference may be caused to the use of recognized sea lanes essential to international navigation or in areas of intense fishing activity." Therefore, neither the exploration area nor the exploitation area would be located within fishing areas or overlapped with sea lanes. Thus, it may not be necessary to assess the impact upon fisheries and marine traffic for exploitation.

On 11.2, based on current data and knowledge gaps about deep sea environment, Contractors can not find out and predict "all" relevant environmental questions. It obviously beyond Contractors' scientific research capacity and beyond their obligations under the contract as well.