

**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:

Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative

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

DR46bis(2)(e)

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.

The environmental impact assessment shall include:

(e) clearly identify where scientific knowledge gaps exist and define to what degree these gaps may influence to overall impact analysis and impact assessment

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

There are currently scientific gaps in our understanding of, but not limited to, the deep-sea environment, temporal and spatial species patterns, and connectivity. These gaps are unlikely to be filled by the collected baseline data alone. This will likely result in uncertainty against which the overall impact analyses and impact assessments need to be considered. The proposed textual change ensures that the protection and preservation of the marine environment is upheld as per the environmental mandate of the ISA.