



Regulation 52

Review of the performance assessments of the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (delivered 25 July 2022)

Thank you Madame Facilitator.

For DR 52 Para 1, the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative suggests that the “competent and independent” auditor needs to be hired by the Commission and paid by the contractor, not hired by Contractor. In our opinion, an auditor hired by the contractor presents a potential conflict of interest, as raised by Spain, and creates dependency as the auditor is hired and paid by the contractor.

For Para 2, DOSI supports a more frequent review of at least every two years as written, and preferably annually, as recommended by France. We would like to emphasize the scarcity of the current knowledge on the temporal variability of deep sea ecosystems, which warrants more frequent review for adaptive management, as raised by Chile and the US delegations.

As recommended by Costa Rica and Chile, DOSI suggests the addition of a section 3bis that specifies that the report should be published, that stakeholder comments should be invited, and that stakeholder comments and a contractor’s response to the stakeholders comments should be published. All of these should also be presented to the Commission for review.

Regarding Para 4, DOSI believes that review of performance assessment reports will be highly technical. In the spirit of the submission ISBA/26/C/6 from GER and NL, co-sponsored by Costa Rica, that suggests that an expert committee shall develop and review a REMP and then report to the LTC, we similarly suggest that such an expert committee could assess the EMMP of contractors that fall within a specific REMP. Alternatively, a sentence should be added to Para 4 to clarify “If the Commission does not possess sufficient expertise amongst its members, it shall consult independent experts to review the performance assessment.” As deep-sea environmental scientists, we know how time-intensive proper review of environmental documents is and how many different expertises are required. DOSI is ready to assist the ISA in accessing global scientific collective expertise that could assist with these tasks.

Thank you Madame Facilitator.