

**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:

United States

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

Draft Regulation 44

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.

(a) In establishing and keeping under periodic review environmental rules, regulations and procedures, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, the Authority shall:

...

(iv) Require accountability and transparency in the assessment, evaluation and management of Environmental Effects from Exploitation in the Area, including through stakeholder engagement and the timely public release of relevant environmental data and information at regular intervals and in an accessible format consistent with scientific best practices.

(c) In taking necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment arising from Exploitation in the Area, the Enterprise and Contractors shall implement, mutatis mutandis, the measures set out under paragraph (a)(i) to (iii) above and demonstrate accountability and transparency in the assessment, evaluation and management of Environmental Effects from Exploitation in the Area, including through stakeholder engagement, the timely public release of relevant environmental data and information at regular intervals and in an accessible format consistent with scientific best practices, and applying a priority order to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and remediate harm to the marine environment.

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

Regulation 44 paragraphs 1(a)(iv) and 1(c) would benefit from clarity on the frequency and location of environmental data and information releases. The scientific data the draft regulations request highlight an opportunity for Contractors to help fill existing data and information gaps about these habitats, but only if data and information are released

publicly, frequently, and in an accessible format consistent with scientific best practices. Regular and complete release of receipt of data will also enable the ISA to effectively monitor environmental impacts and Contractor compliance. In addition, Contractor management of environmental effects should prioritize, in order, avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and remediation, recognizing that full remediation may not be successful for certain environmental conditions in these habitats.