

Review of the draft regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits

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General Comments		
<p>When preparing the general comments, stakeholders are invited to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The structure and layout of the draft REMP. 2) The level of detail of the draft REMP, while avoiding being too prescriptive. 3) The goals and objectives in the draft REMP in providing for long-term, effective protection of the marine environment in the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. 4) The management measures and their ability to achieve the goals and objectives in the draft REMP. 		
Specific Comments		
Page	Line	Comment
6	106	Coastal states should be considered as stakeholders in this plan, and they should also be involved in multilateral exchange of views. (Alternative) ~...developing <u>and coastal</u> countries and multilateral exchange of views on environmental management issues
9	215	Upon this line, no one can proceed exploitation activities unless certain “thresholds” are clarified.
10	256	The sentence “Important species” needs to be more specific; otherwise, the contractors are difficult to share the same level for the maintenance of ecosystem functioning and integrity.
10	258	The sentence “Ecologically important sediment systems” needs to be clearer.
11-12	309-315	SINPs are to be determined according to the scientific criteria described in the Annex IV, but in fact the active vent ecosystems were only selected. Considering the purpose of REMP is to conserve biodiversity in the region, the selection method is biased.
12	329	Judging from the outline of SINP described in the paragraph 40 (a), as for inclusion of i), ii) and iii) in a SINP, should be mentioned by the well-marked expression. e.g., shall. (Alternative) A SINP <u>shall</u> include within its boundary:
14	432	In general, the usage (or utilization) of vessel's light has the purpose of safety work and navigation. Therefore, the sentence such as “as long as it can be assured of safety” should be inserted in this text. (Alternative)

		k) Control light on the seabed and from vessels that can attract birds and disrupt their behaviour <u>as long as it can be assured of safety</u> ;
14	424	The thresholds should be reviewed in certain intervals as new findings, which are expected to be obtained regarding the effects of mining plume on SINP. (Alternative) Apply thresholds for the impact of mining plume (particles and toxic contaminations) on SINPs, <u>recognizing that such thresholds may need to be reviewed in certain intervals.</u>
14	437	Further explanation is needed as the required action is unclear in this sentence. Judging from the description of "Invasive species from vessels", it seems to mean ballast water exchange. However, the exchange of ballast water is regulated by BWM (International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments). Regulation B-4, Ballast Water Exchange, "1.1. whenever possible, conduct such Ballast Water exchange at least 200 nautical miles from the nearest land and in water at least 200 metres in depth, taking into account the Guidelines developed by the Organization;" If this paragraph will be left, vessels will be required the further restriction by this REMP (Alternative) <u>Prevent</u> the introduction of invasive species from vessels that can lead to loss of ecosystem function and biodiversity;

Underlines after "(Alternative)" in the boxes indicate suggested texts with original sentences.