

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

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.

DR 45

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.

[1.] Environmental Standards and Guidelines shall be developed in accordance with regulation[s] 94 and 95 and shall include, inter alia, the following subject matters:

- (a) Environmental quality objectives, quantitative thresholds, [and indicators], including on ~~ecological balance of the marine environment~~, ecosystem functions and services, biodiversity status, the extent, density, composition, and toxicity plume density, toxicity, composition, chemistry of any resultant plume, and as well as sedimentation rates, ~~and light and noise emissions~~,
- (b) Monitoring and reporting procedures, ~~and~~
- (c) ~~Mitigation measures~~ Prevention, reduction and control measures and/or remediation of environmental harm,
- ~~(d) Baseline Data collection and reporting procedures,~~
- ~~(e) Technical requirements with regard to the equipment used for the exploitation activities and~~
- ~~(f) Quantitative assessment of environmental effects.~~
- ~~(g) Assessment of accidental events and natural hazards leading to environmental emergencies including environmentally hazardous discharges and residual effects of such emergencies.~~
- ~~(h) Procedural and substantive requirements relating to submissions required by these regulations, including but not limited to: Plans of Work, Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans,~~

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

The United States supports the suggested inclusion of thresholds in the Regulation, and proposes that text making reference to “quantitative thresholds” or similar be added to paragraph 1 (a), recognizing

these thresholds will be revised over time as more data emerges and scientific understanding improves. We have additionally proposed edits to streamline the phrasing in 1(a).

Further, in paragraph 1 (b) and (d), we recommend consideration of reporting procedures in tandem with monitoring procedures and baseline data collection so that, where Standards and Guidelines are developed for Monitoring and Data collection, there also be consideration of the means of appropriately reporting that data. Finally, as an overall comment on the structure of paragraph 1, we propose that it would be clearer to ensure that the subject matters identified more explicitly line up with the draft Standards and Guidelines currently under review. Accordingly, as part of that alignment, we propose the addition of a part (g) to include consideration of accidental events and natural hazards. We additionally propose inclusion of language in part (h) to more specifically provide that Standards and Guidelines may specify procedural and substantive requirements of submissions required by the draft regulations, to be more consistent with the framing of the draft Standards and Guidelines currently being considered by the Council.