



WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AREA OF THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC

26 October - 06 November 2020; Online

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”) and 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), on behalf of the States Parties to the Convention, is mandated to administer the mineral resources in the Area and to control and organize current exploration activities, as well as future mining activities, in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole. The Authority is also mandated to take necessary measures with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects and to adopt appropriate rules, regulations and procedures for, *inter alia*, the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area, and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.¹
2. In pursuance of this mandate, the Council, during its seventeenth session in 2012, on the basis of the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission, approved an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ).² This included the designation of a network of nine “Areas of Particular Environmental Interest” (APEIs).
3. At its twenty-fourth session, in March 2018, the Council took note of a preliminary strategy proposed by the Secretary-General for the development of REMPs for key provinces where exploration activities under contracts are carried out.³ The Council agreed with the priority areas that had been identified on a preliminary basis as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Indian Ocean triple junction ridge and nodule-bearing province, as well as the North-West Pacific and South Atlantic for seamounts. The Council also noted that the preliminary strategy laid out a coherent and coordinated approach to the process and identified as essential that REMPs be developed in a transparent manner under the auspices of the Authority, in light of its jurisdiction under the Convention and the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention.⁴
4. As noted by the Council, the implementation of this preliminary strategy has started with the organization of two workshops, including the one organized in Qingdao, China, in May 2018, which

¹ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, art.145.

² See ISBA/17/LTC/7; ISBA/17/C/19 and ISBA/18/C/22.

³ See ISBA/24/C/3.

⁴ ISBA/24/C/8, para 10.

addressed the design of a REMP for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The report of this workshop is available at <https://isa.org.jm/node/19343>.

5. Building on the experience of the environmental management plan for the CCZ and initiatives taken for other regions, the development of REMPs became an essential element of the strategic plan for the period 2019–2023⁵ adopted by the Assembly in 2018 and, subsequently, a central part of the high-level action plan⁶ adopted by the Assembly in 2019. Strategic direction 3.2 of the high-level action plan provides that the Authority is to “develop, implement and keep under review regional environmental assessments and management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking place to ensure sufficient protection of the marine environment as required by, *inter alia*, Article 145 and Part XII of the Convention”.

6. At the twenty-fifth session, the Council took note of and welcomed a report of the Secretary General⁷ on the implementation of the preliminary strategy, including a programme of work to develop REMPs through a series of workshops planned during 2019 and 2020 to undertake scientific synthesis and prepare draft elements for inclusion in the REMPs.

7. To support the organization of these workshops, the secretariat prepared a guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans, which clarified the roles and responsibilities of ISA organs, as set out in the Convention, the Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority. The guidance also identifies the key scientific and technical approaches for spatial planning and area-based management.

8. As requested by the Council in its decision ISBA/26/C/10, steps are being undertaken by the Legal and Technical Commission to further develop the guidance document.

9. In parallel with this development, in 2019, two expert workshops were convened, on deep sea biodiversity of the CCZ and the development of a REMP for the Area of the Northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The results of these two workshops were discussed by the Legal and Technical Commission at its twenty-sixth session and form the basis for the ongoing review of the environmental management plan for the CCZ, as well as further development of the REMP for the Area of the Northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

10. With the above background, the ISA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, is convening the Workshop on the Development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan for the Area of the Northwest Pacific, via an online platform from 26 October to 6 November 2020.

11. The workshop aims to: i) review, analyze and synthesize scientific data and information on biogeography; physical, geological and environmental settings; biodiversity, ecosystem features and habitats of the Northwest Pacific seamounts and nodule areas; ii) review current exploration activities within contract areas and distribution of resources (cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts and polymetallic nodules) in the Northwest Pacific region; iii) describe potential areas that could be impacted by future exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and would require enhanced management measures and precautions; and iv) discuss a framework to address cumulative impacts from future exploitation activities in order to achieve effective protection of the marine environment.

12. The results of this workshop will provide scientific inputs to the next workshop in this region, which will focus on identifying management measures for developing draft elements for inclusion in the REMP for the Northwest Pacific region.

13. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex I.

⁵ ISBA/24/A/10

⁶ ISBA/25/A/15, annex II

⁷ ISBA/25/C/13

14. The secretariat will issue an information note for participants containing logistics details to facilitate their participation, including information on how to join the online workshop and navigate different functions of the online meeting platform. The workshop will be conducted in English.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

15. The Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority, together with representatives of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, will open the workshop at 6 p.m. (Jamaica; GMT-5) on Monday, 26 October 2020.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

16. Malcolm Clark and Se-Jong Ju, members of Legal and Technical Commission of ISA, will be invited as co-chairs to moderate the workshop deliberation.

17. Under this item, participants will have before them two council documents (ISBA/24/C/3 and ISBA/25/C/13) and the “guidance to facilitate the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans”.

18. Jihyun Lee (ISA secretariat) will provide a presentation on the workshop background, including ISA’s approach to the REMP development, and Wanfei Qiu (ISA secretariat) will provide a presentation on the workshop objectives and expected outputs.

19. This will be followed by two presentations on approaches to synthesize the workshop discussion by Patrick Halpin (Duke University) focusing on spatial planning and Piers Dunstan (CSIRO) on cumulative impact assessment.

20. Participants will then exchange insights, views, and suggestions, building on the presentations above.

ITEM 3. REVIEW, ANALYSIS, AND SYNTHESIS OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA, INFORMATION, AND MAPS RELATING TO GEOLOGICAL SETTINGS WITHIN CONTRACT AREAS, DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES (CRUSTS AND NODULES), AND BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM PATTERNS IN THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC

21. Under this item, participants will have before them:

- (i) Draft report on Regional Environmental Assessment that described biological and environmental conditions in the Northwest Pacific, prepared by a team of experts; and
- (ii) Draft Data report compiling environmental and biological information, biogeographic classification, and other geo-spatial information in GIS layers, prepared by Duke University/MGEL in support of the workshop objectives.

22. Wanfei Qiu (ISA Secretariat) and Rachel Boschen-Rose (Seascope Consultants Ltd.) will deliver a presentation to introduce the Draft Report on Regional Environmental Assessment, followed by Patrick Halpin (Duke University)’s presentation on the Draft Data report.

23. Then, the following presentations will be delivered on geological settings, resource distribution and exploration activities in the region:

- (i) Irina Ponomareva (Yuzhmorgeologiya, Russia): Geological settings with a focus on the seamount areas
- (ii) Sang-Joon Pak (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology): Exploration

activities by the Republic of Korea and spatial distribution of ferromanganese crusts on seamounts in the Western Pacific

(iii) Huaiming Li (Second Institute of Oceanography, China): Geological settings and characteristics in the distribution of nodule resources

24. Next, the following presentations will be delivered on biodiversity, ecosystems and oceanographical settings:

(i) Xue-wei Xu (Second Institute of Oceanography, China): Overview of ecosystems and biological communities

(ii) Tina Molodtsova (Russian Academy of Sciences): Seamount and abyssal plain habitats

(iii) Cherisse Du Preez (Fisheries and Oceans Canada): Pelagic biological communities

(iv) Masayuki Nagao (Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan): Oceanography and sediment fluxes

25. Building on the presentations above, participants will exchange their views, insights, and suggestions on, *inter alia*:

(i) The overarching environmental goals and objectives for the region;

(ii) Information contained in the Draft Report on Regional Environmental Assessment and Draft Data report as a basis for developing an REMP; and

(iii) Critical data/information gaps: distribution patterns, temporal variability, trophic relationships, and ecosystem function, among others.

ITEM 4. SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES AND TOOLS IN SUPPORT OF AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

26. Building on the presentations and the results of deliberations under the previous agenda items, participants will discuss scientific approaches and tools in support of: 1) area-based management; and 2) assessment of cumulative impacts. In this regard, Patrick Halpin (Duke University) and Piers Dunstan (CSIRO) will be invited as facilitators to moderate the discussions, respectively.

27. First, the facilitators will brief participants on suggested approaches to producing outputs under this item. Participants will then split into the following break-out groups to undertake focused-discussions:

Group 1: Seamount benthic habitats

Group 2: Pelagic and abyssal plain habitats

28. The breakout session will be divided into two, with a plenary session in between. For each breakout session, each group will have a chance to discuss scientific approaches and tools in support of *both* area-based management and assessment of cumulative impacts, with the respective facilitator.

29. After the first breakout session, participants will gather in a plenary session and each facilitator will report on the progress made in their respective breakout discussion. Participants will then exchange their observations and insights based on the results of the first breakout session.

30. Next, participants will return to their respective group for further breakout discussions, building on the results of the previous discussions.

31. Lastly, participants will gather in a plenary session to exchange their observations and insights, including on critical areas that would require further scientific inputs, and to synthesize the results of break-out session discussions held under this item.

ITEM 5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

32. Participants will be invited to consider and provide comments to the draft report to be prepared and presented by the workshop co-chairs, with the support of the secretariat.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

33. The workshop is expected to close at 10 p.m. (Jamaica; GMT-5) on Thursday, 5 November 2020.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORKSHOP

<i>Prepared by</i>	<i>Title</i>
ISA secretariat	Provisional agenda
ISA secretariat	Annotations to the provisional agenda
Council documents	Preliminary strategy for the development of regional environmental management plans for the Area (ISBA/24/C/3) Implementation of the Authority's strategy for the development of regional environmental management plans for the Area (ISBA/25/C/13)
A team of contributors	Draft Report on Regional Environmental Assessment of the Northwest Pacific Region
Duke University/MGE	Draft Data Report
ISA Technical Study No. 23	Towards the development of a regional environmental management plan for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Northwest Pacific Ocean
ISA secretariat	Guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans (REMPs)

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Workshop Co-Chairs: Malcolm Clark and Se-Jong Ju

Day 1 Monday 26 October

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop activities
18.00 - 18.30	<p><i>Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority • Representatives of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea • Representatives of the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
18.30 - 19.30	<p><i>Agenda item 2. Workshop background, scope and expected outputs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop background, objectives and expected outputs: ISA’s approach for the REMP development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jihyun Lee/Wanfei Qiu (ISA Secretariat) • Approaches for synthesizing workshop discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pat Halpin (Technical Support Team): Approaches for spatial planning ○ Piers Dunstan (Technical support Team): Approaches for addressing cumulative impact assessment
19.30 - 19.50	<p>Break</p>
19.50 - 22.00	<p><i>Agenda item 3. Review, analysis and synthesis of relevant scientific data/information/maps relating to geological settings within contract areas and distribution of resources (crusts and nodules) and biodiversity and ecosystem patterns in the Northwest Pacific</i></p> <p><i>Theme presentations for setting a context</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to workshop background documents: Draft Report on Regional Environmental Assessment and Draft Data Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wanfei Qiu (ISA Secretariat) and Rachel Boschen-Rose (Seascape Consultants Ltd): Draft Report on REA ○ Pat Halpin (Technical Support Team): Draft Data report • Geological settings and prospects for resource exploitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Irina Ponomareva (Yuzhmorgeologiya, Russia): Geological settings with a focus on seamount areas ○ Sang-Joon Pak (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology): Exploration activities by Republic of Korea and spatial distribution of ferromanganese crusts on seamounts in the Western Pacific ○ Huaiming Li (Second Institute of Oceanography, China): Geological settings and characteristics in the distribution of nodule resources • Biodiversity, ecosystem and oceanographical settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Xue-wei Xu (Second Institute of Oceanography, China): Overview of ecosystems and biological communities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tina Molodtsova (Russian Academy of Sciences): Seamount and abyssal plain benthic habitats ○ Cherisse Du Preez (Fisheries and Oceans Canada): Pelagic biological communities ○ Masayuki Nagao (Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan): Oceanography and sediment fluxes
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Day 2 Tuesday 27 October

Time (Jamaica time, GMT -5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 19.30	<p>Agenda items 3 (continued) Plenary</p> <p>In the plenary discussion, participants will exchange their views, insights, and suggestions on, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the overarching environmental goals and objectives for the region? • Information contained in the Regional Environmental Assessment report and Data report as a basis for developing an REMP. • Critical data/information gaps: distribution patterns, temporal variability, trophic relationships, ecosystem function, etc.
19.30 - 19.50	<p style="text-align: center;">Break</p>
19.50 - 22.00	<p>Agenda item 4. Scientific approaches and tools in support of area-based management and assessment of cumulative impacts</p> <p><u>Facilitators: Pat Halpin (area-based management) and Piers Dunstan (cumulative impacts)</u></p> <p>Plenary</p> <p>Facilitators will brief the workshop participants on suggested approaches to produce outputs under this agenda item, including the following questions to be addressed through the break-out sessions, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to apply the spatial planning approaches (coarse-filter, fine-filter, or combined) to the Northwest Pacific region? What are the criteria that can be applied in identifying area-based management tools (ABMTs), and how can information provided in the Data and REA reports be used to describe ABMTs? • What is the modelling approach for identifying and assessing cumulative impacts in the region? What are the key elements of the model and how data/information can be used to develop such a model through an interactive process? <p>Participants will then split into two main break-out groups (tentative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Seamount benthic habitats • Group 2: Pelagic and abyssal plain habitats

	<p><i>Break-out session</i> The above two groups will interact with two facilitators on ABMT and Cumulative Impacts, respectively.</p> <p><i>Note: Specific allocation of thematic group with two facilitators (ABMT and Cumulative Impacts) will be described in a separate note for participants on break-out session.</i></p>
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Day 3 Wednesday 28 October

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 22.00 ⁸	<p><i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Break-out session</i></p>

Day 4 Thursday 29 October

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18:00 - 22.00	<p><i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Break-out session</i></p>

Day 5 Monday 2 November

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 19.00	<p><i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <p>Facilitators on ABMT and Cumulative Impacts will report the progress made in their respective break-out session.</p> <p>Participants will exchange their observations and insights regarding the break-out session, and seek guidance from the plenary, if any.</p> <p>Participants will then return to break-out session to continue their discussion.</p>
19.00 - 22.00	<p><i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Break-out session</i></p>

⁸ Please note that the timing of the break-out sessions may subject to change, depending on the time zones of participants in each group.

Day 6 Tuesday 3 November

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 22.00	<i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i> <i>Break-out session</i>

Day 7 Wednesday 4 November

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 19.00	<i>Agenda items 4 (continued)</i> <i>Plenary session</i> Facilitators on ABMT and Cumulative Impacts will report the results of their respective break-out session. Participants will exchange their observations and insights regarding critical areas that would require further scientific inputs, if any.
19:00 - 22.00	<i>Preparation of draft report</i>

Day 8 Thursday 5 November

Time (Jamaica time, GMT-5)	Workshop Activities
18.00 - 21.30	<i>Agenda item 5. Summary and Conclusion</i> <i>Plenary session</i> Participants will hear a summary by co-chairs and will be asked to review the draft meeting report.
21.30 - 22.00	<i>Agenda item 6. Closure of the workshop</i>