

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council@isa.org.jm.

1. Name of Working Group:

Protection and preservation of the marine environment

2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Norway

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

DR 48 bis /DR 48bis ALT

4. 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. A Contractor ~~may shall~~ conduct a test mining study as a part of an exploration or exploitation contract, before commencement of commercial production, to provide evidence to substantiate the required information in accordance with Regulation 7:

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

- Normally, “test mining” is conducted for the purpose of deciding whether a natural resource (oil, gas, minerals) can in fact be environmentally, technically, and thereby – profitably – exploited.
- Testing of technology as such is normally not undertaken on site, but in a test/artificial/made for testing purposes environment. Testing of new technology/equipment on site could have negative environmental impacts, and thus risks causing more damage than benefit. In addition, it could be very costly, time consuming, as well as subject to safety challenges.
- Test mining *can* be necessary or recommendable to assess the effects of mining on the marine environment in exceptional circumstances. However, Norway cannot recommend a *requirement* without exceptions for test mining under the ISA Regulations.
- The applicant should be required to carry out technology tests under (scientific) conditions and provide the results of these tests as part of the EIA/EIS. Tests of relevant technology under relevant (scientific) conditions carried out by others should also be acceptable in this respect. This is normal industry practice, and the industry would be accustomed to carrying out such technology tests.