



**Intervention #4 -DR45 - Development of environmental Standards and Guidelines
- Delivered on 12/07/2023 by Patricia Esquete**

Thank you, Madam Facilitator.

We thank Germany for the work done on streamlining this regulation.

DOSI would like to suggest 2 additions to DR45 which, we believe, would be in line with either the version of DR45 or DR45alt

First, DOSI suggests that a clear timeframe is added for the review of the Environmental Standards. With the increased availability of environmental baseline data that ought to be collected during the Exploration Contract Periods, we will learn more about the structure, functioning and services of the ecosystems.

Further, it is likely that ongoing research will provide increased certainty on thresholds for various impacts. In addition, with the ongoing climate change emergency, it is likely that conditions previously not observed will appear, and this requires potential changes to emergency responses and contingency plans. Thus, to ensure that the Standards reflect the best available scientific information, DOSI suggests that the ISA should be mandated to conduct a proactive review every 2 or 3 years.

Second, DOSI suggests that the Council considers the possibility of a new Standard for the design criteria of Impact Reference Zones and Preservation Reference Zones, which are currently included as an appendix. The Impact and Preservation Reference Zones are key components for successful monitoring, and included their design criteria as a Standard would allow for clarity for applicants or contractors on their use and adherence to their design, and more importantly, allows for the design criteria to be updated as knowledge and techniques on conservation improve.

Thank you, Madam Facilitator