

Status of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and index of relevant documentation

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Council is currently considering draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/WP.1](#)), which were prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission and submitted to the Council in 2019 following an iterative process of development and consultation that began in 2011, when the representative of Fiji requested the Council to begin consideration of regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources of the Area ([ISBA/17/C/22](#)).

2. A complete set of regulations had been prepared by the Commission and submitted to the Council pursuant to article 165, paragraph 2 (f), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In the process of developing the draft regulations on exploitation, several expert workshops were held, that involved the preparation of many expert studies and discussion papers. Five rounds of open stakeholder consultations were undertaken from 2014-2019. The Commission also prepared drafts of 10 standards and guidelines to support the implementation of the future regulations. These draft standards and guidelines have been through two stakeholder consultations during 2020 and 2021.

3. The main steps taken in the preparation of the draft regulations from 2011 to 2023 are listed in annex I. Annex II provides a complete list of relevant documents, reports and studies relating to the preparation of the draft regulations during the same period.

4. The purpose of the present report is to outline the current status of the draft regulations on exploitations, updating the status previously reported in [ISBA/26/C/44](#), to guide the work pursuant to the road map for continued work as contained in [ISBA/28/C/24](#), with a view to the adoption of the draft regulations and associated phase 1 standards and guidelines.

II. Review of the development process from 2017 to August 2023

5. At the twenty-third session, in 2017, the Council agreed on a timeline for the adoption and approval of the draft regulations by July 2020.¹ At the same session, the Assembly endorsed a revised schedule of meetings for 2018, 2019 and 2020 designed to enable the Commission and the Council to deliver the regulations in accordance with the road map. The revised schedule of meetings envisaged two annual meetings of two weeks each for the Commission and two annual meetings of one week each for the Council.²

6. In accordance with the revised schedule of meetings, the Commission and the Council worked in parallel on the draft regulations during 2018 and 2019. At the twenty-fourth session, in 2018, the Council reiterated its view that the draft regulations should be adopted as a matter of urgency, commended the Commission for the considerable work that it had accomplished and encouraged it to pursue its efforts at its meetings in 2019.³ The Council also provided the Commission with comments on the draft regulatory text under consideration⁴ and initiated a consultation process to enable all stakeholders to submit specific comments in writing for consideration

¹ [ISBA/23/C/13, annex](#).

² In response to a proposal by the Netherlands, the Council decided that the first part of the session of the Council would take place before the meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission, while the second part would take place after the Commission's meetings. In response to the concerns of some delegations about limited financial support for developing countries to attend additional meetings of the Council, a voluntary trust fund was established to support the participation of developing States members of the Council.

³ [ISBA/24/C/8/Add.1](#), para. 7.

⁴ *Ibid*, annex I.

by the Commission.⁵ The Commission reviewed those comments and finalized its recommendations on the draft regulations at its meetings during the first part of the twenty-fifth session.⁶

7. One of the key outcomes of the stakeholder consultation held in 2019 was that many stakeholders agreed that standards and guidelines implementing the draft regulations had to be developed in parallel with the regulatory text. Stakeholders also advocated putting in place critical phase 1 standards and guidelines by the time of adoption of the regulations. Such was the importance of that issue that a separate report was prepared for the Council, which included a proposed priority list of standards and guidelines to be developed.⁷ To further support the work of the Commission and the Council, an international workshop on the development of standards and guidelines was held in Pretoria in April 2019 (between the first and second parts of the twenty fifth session).⁸

8. During the second part of the twenty-fifth session, the Council considered the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission, which incorporated recommendations for the development of standards and guidelines, including the list of documents to be developed under phase 1.⁹ The Council held a discussion on the draft regulations and adopted a decision in which, inter alia, it expressed its intention to ensure the thorough and timely development of the draft regulations, bearing in mind that the necessary standards and guidelines should be developed before the adoption of the draft regulations, and it requested the Commission to work on standards and guidelines as a matter of priority.¹⁰ The Council also decided that additional written comments on the draft regulations, including specific drafting suggestions, could be sent to the secretariat no later than 15 October 2019, and it requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation of the proposals and observations submitted by members of the Council and a compilation of proposals and observations submitted by other States members of the Authority, observers and other stakeholders, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-sixth session, in 2020.

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9. The first part of the twenty-sixth session of the Council took place in February 2020. The Council resumed its consideration of the draft regulations, which it had commenced at the twenty-fifth session, and considered parts IV, V and VI of the draft and the related annexes IV, VII and VIII. The Council also adopted a decision on working methods to advance discussions on the draft regulations,¹² in which it decided to establish three informal working groups on thematic issues, each to be led by a facilitator. In addition to the existing Open-ended Working Group in Respect of the Development and Negotiation of the Financial Terms of a Contract ("OEWG"),¹³ the groups, as of August 2023, are:

(a) The Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment, facilitated by Ms. Raijeli Taga (Fiji);

(b) The Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement, facilitated by Ms. Maureen Tamuno (Nigeria);

I The Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters, facilitated by Gina Guillen-Grillo (Costa Rica) and Salvador Vega Telias (Chile).

10. During the first part of the twenty-seventh session, in 2022, the President of the Council provided a briefing paper¹⁴ of the work of the Plenary concerning the draft regulations and the consideration of phase one draft standards and guidelines. The briefing paper set out how the Council would progress the work on aspects of the draft regulations that were not being reviewed within the context of any of the working groups. Based on the briefing paper, it was agreed by the Council during its meeting in March 2022 that the parts of the draft regulations not covered by any of the informal working groups would be reviewed by the plenary in an informal format. These

⁵ The main thematic issues raised in the written submissions were summarized in document [ISBA/25/C/2](#).

⁶ The draft regulations are contained in document [ISBA/25/C/WP.1](#), and an explanatory note by the Commission is contained in document [ISBA/25/C/18](#).

⁷ [ISBA/25/C/3, annex](#).

⁸ See <https://www.isa.org.jm/events/workshop-on-the-development-of-standards-and-guidelines-for-the-mining-code/>

⁹ [ISBA/25/C/19/Add.1](#), paras 20-22 and annex.

¹⁰ [ISBA/25/C/37](#).

¹¹ All comments and proposals that have been submitted are available on the website of the Authority. A summary of the main thematic elements in the comments is contained in document [ISBA/26/C/2](#). A collation of specific drafting suggestions made by members of the Council is contained in document [ISBA/26/C/CRP.1](#).

¹² [ISBA/26/C/11](#).

¹³ The Open-ended Working Group is chaired by Mr. Olav Myklebust (Norway). It has held eight meetings so far.

¹⁴ Can be accessed via the ISA website; <https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/President-Briefing-Note-31032022.pdf>

elements are included in the President's text.¹⁵ Several proposals were provided to these sections of the draft exploitation regulations. To collect and compile these proposals, the President of the twenty-seventh session provided a full collation of the proposals in a President's text, which has continuously been updated.¹⁶

III. Process since March 2020

11. The Council requested the Chair and the Facilitators to report on the progress made in their work at the informal meetings in the period from March 2020 and onwards. Below is a summary of the progress made during the respective sessions. The reporting can also be accessed in further details in the Statements of the President.¹⁷

A. Progress made during the twenty-sixth session of the Council

12. Since February 2020, due to the pandemic, the Council was unable to meet in person and, accordingly, no progress could be made in any of the newly established informal working groups.

13. In relation to the work of the OEWG, a series of informal webinars were held on 9, 11 and 12 June and 28 October 2020,¹⁸ in which the methodology and outcomes of studies relating to a comparative analysis of the financial aspects of deep seabed mining and land-based mining were presented, as requested by the Council.

14. In addition, the Secretariat was able to continue its work on the preparation of studies and reports concerning the draft regulations, as requested by the Commission and the Council, respectively. This included the preparation of studies and reports concerning: (a) matters related to insurance; (b) the environmental compensation fund¹⁹; (c) competencies of the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organization²⁰; (d) the environmental performance guarantee²¹; (e) remote monitoring in the context of inspections²²; (f) potential impacts on land-based producers²³; and (g) the application of International Labour Organization instruments to activities in the Area.²⁴

15. Concerning the phase 1 standards and guidelines, during 2020 and 2021, the Commission met remotely and developed the following draft standards and guidelines, which were open to comments from stakeholders: (a) draft guideline on the preparation and assessment of an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploitation; (b) draft standard and guidelines on the development and application of environmental management systems; (c) draft standard and guidelines on the form and calculation of an environmental performance guarantee; (d) draft guidelines for the establishment of baseline environmental data; (e) draft standard and guidelines for environmental impact assessment process; (f) draft guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement; (g) draft guidelines for the preparation of environmental management and monitoring plans; (h) draft guidelines on tools and techniques for hazard identification and risk assessments; (i) draft standard and guidelines for the safe management and operation of mining vessels and installations; and (j) draft standard and guidelines for the preparation and implementation of emergency response and contingency plans.²⁵ A stakeholder consultation took place from 20 August to 20 October 2020. Furthermore, a consultation took place from 8 April to 3 July 2021.²⁶

16. The Council resumed face to face meetings in Kingston, Jamaica, from 6 to 10 December 2021 under the Presidency of Rear Admiral (retired) Mohammad Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh).²⁷ The Council took note of

¹⁵ Further information on the informal work can be found in [ISBA/27/C/21](#), paras 24-28.

¹⁶ [ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1/Rev.1](#), [ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1](#) and [ISBA/27/C/WOW/CRP.1](#)

¹⁷ Annex to [ISBA/28/C/11/Add.1](#), [ISBA/28/C/11](#), [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#), [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1](#) and [ISBA/27/C/21](#).

¹⁸ The material from the webinar can be accessed via the ISA website under the subheading of the OEWG; <https://www.isa.org.jm/the-mining-code/working-groups/#1670605257367-7a70e0de-e115>.

¹⁹ See ISA Technical Study No. 27, and Policy Brief on the Environmental Compensation Fund, 02/2022.

²⁰ See ISA Technical Study No. 25

²¹ See [ISBA/27/C/10](#)

²² See ISA Technical Study No. 29.

²³ See ISA TECHNICAL STUDY NO. 32

²⁴ See [ISA Technical Study No. 26](#)

²⁵ The standard and guidelines can be accessed via the ISA website: <https://www.isa.org.jm/the-mining-code/standards-and-guidelines/>.

²⁶ The comments received can be accessed via the ISA website: <https://www.isa.org.jm/submissions-received-respect-stakeholder-consultations-standards-and-guidelines/> and <https://www.isa.org.jm/submissions-received-respect-stakeholder-consultations-standards-and-guidelines/>.

²⁷ [ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1](#).

the decisions it had taken under silence procedure in 2020 and 2021²⁸ and adopted a roadmap to advance the work on the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area in 2022 (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1, Annex).²⁹

B. Progress made during the twenty-seventh session of the Council

17. The first part of the twenty-seventh session of the Council was held from 21 March to 1 April 2022. Tomasz Abramowski (Poland) was elected as the President of the Council for the twenty-seventh session. As a matter of priority, the Council continued to consider the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.³⁰

18. The OEWG held its fourth meeting in March 2022. During the meeting, Richard Roth from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) presented a summary of benefits and disadvantages of four different options for a payment system. After that, the group carried out discussions on that basis. During the same meeting, some delegations suggested that a study be carried out on environmental costs. Finally, it was agreed that the Chair should prepare a Chair's draft text for a payment system. Such a text was released ahead of the second part of the twenty-seventh session, in July 2022.³¹ The group held its fifth meeting in July 2022 when the group managed to conduct discussions of the different payment options and partially read the Chair's text. The negotiations of the Chair's text were resumed and finalized during the group's sixth meeting under the third part of the twenty-seventh session. During the third part of the twenty-seventh session, Richard Roth from MIT gave a presentation on the financial payment system modelling for polymetallic nodules, which was followed by a presentation by the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) on Offshore Indirect Transfers. The latter was based on a request by a group to implement regulation on a tax or levy on the transfer of rights.

19. The Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment met for the first time since its establishment and held five meetings on 23, 24, 25 and 28 March 2022. The group had conducted a webinar in February 2022 with a view to receiving general comments on the Facilitator's text.³² The group managed to conduct a reading of the entire text during the meeting in March 2022, and it was considered a solid basis for future negotiations. The Facilitator agreed to prepare a revised Facilitator's text for the second part of the twenty-seventh session.³³ In June 2022, the group held a webinar concerning the difference between the Sustainability Fund and the proposed Environmental Compensation Fund, as requested by the Council.³⁴ During the second part of the session in July 2022 the reading of the Facilitator's revised text was commenced. During the same meeting, a document of 10 June 2022 was presented concerning the normative environmental thresholds for deep-seabed mining.³⁵ The reading of the revised text was finalized during the third part of the twenty-seventh session, and the Facilitator promised to provide a further revised text ahead of the the twenty-eighth session.

20. The Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement held its first and second meetings on 28 and 29 March 2022. Discussions were carried out in respect of the creation of the institutional framework through which effective inspection, compliance and enforcement could be undertaken. The Facilitator agreed to provide a Facilitator's text for the July meeting. This text³⁶ was warmly welcomed during the groups meeting on 20 July 2022, where the group managed to finalize the reading. A Facilitator's revised text³⁷ was provided for the third part of the twenty-seventh session, where the group managed to finalize the reading.

21. The Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters held its first and second meetings on 29 and 30 March. The co-facilitators had prepared a presentation and described the scope of the work and the way forward. For the meeting in July 2022, the co-facilitators had prepared a text³⁸ and a mapping of the mandates of ISA

²⁸ [ISBA/26/C/48](#).

²⁹ [ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1](#), Annex.

³⁰ [ISBA/27/C/21](#), paras 24-28.

³¹ https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Briefing_Note_OEWG_13_June_2022.pdf

³² [ISBA/27/C/TWG/ENV/CRP.1](#).

³³ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/ENV/CRP.1/Rev.1](#)

³⁴ See [Briefing note for the Webinar on Environmental Compensation Fund](#)

³⁵ [ISBA/27/C/30](#).

³⁶ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/ICE/CRP.1](#)

³⁷ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/ICE/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)

³⁸ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/IM/CRP.1](#).

organs,³⁹ which was followed-up with a revised text ahead of the meeting of the group during the third part of the twenty-eighth session in November 2022.⁴⁰

22. Concerning the phase 1 standards and guidelines, it was agreed that the Commission would review stakeholder comments from the stakeholder consultations in 2020 and 2021 and finalize its revision of the phase 1 standard and guidelines based on the results of the consultations. A report of the Chair of the Commission was subsequently issued, providing reasons and methodology for the Commission's revisions.⁴¹ The revised standards and guidelines were issued in January 2022⁴² and presented during the first part of the twenty-seventh session in March 2022. During the Council meeting in March, some delegations expressed the view that the discussion of the draft regulations should be conducted in parallel with that of the draft phase 1 standard and guidelines, with cross-referencing. Some delegations on the other hand expressed the preference for the draft phase 1 standard and guidelines to be considered after the draft regulations were "stable". The revised standards and guidelines are currently under consideration by the Council.

23. As mentioned above, under para 10, it was agreed that the parts of the draft regulations and standards for phase I, which are not allocated to any informal working groups of the Council, would be handled in an informal setting. Based on that, the President of the Council introduced the President's text during the third part of the twenty-seventh session.⁴³ The text contains a compilation of all outstanding elements with an implementation of all proposals received from delegations and observers.

24. During the second part of the twenty-seventh session, the Council requested the Secretariat to commission a study on the internalization of environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area⁴⁴ and commission the work on the development of binding environmental threshold values.⁴⁵

25. Finally, at the third part of the twenty-seventh session, the Council adopted a new roadmap for the twenty-eighth session ([ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#), Annex II).⁴⁶

C. Progress made during the twenty-eighth session of the Council

26. The twenty-eighth session of the Council commenced on 16 March 2023. The Council elected Juan José Gonzalez Mijares (Mexico) as President.

27. The OEWG held its seventh meeting during the first part of the twenty-eighth session. The Chair presented a Chair's revised text, which was welcomed by the participants and the reading was successfully finalized.⁴⁷ During this meeting, two conceptual topics were presented and updates were provided in respect to the financial model. Alexandra Readhead and Thomas Lassourd of IGF gave a presentation on some general aspects, including on the interaction between option 3 and option 4 for the payment system and sponsoring State taxes. IGF also gave a presentation on the financial implications of a tax or levy on transfer of rights under a contract. He also gave a presentation on the topic of the possible deduction of domestic and sponsoring State tax from (higher) royalty rates. During the second part of the twenty-eighth session, and the group's eighth meeting, the Chair provided a further revised text,⁴⁸ and discussions were in particular centred around the mechanism to develop equalization measures and the continued issue of a tax or levy on transfer of rights under a contract. It was agreed that the Chair will provide a third revised text for the November session.

28. The Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment met from 20 to 22 March 2023, where the facilitator presented her further revised text⁴⁹ with a reminder to the participants to set high standards, as in article 145 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. During the reading, some cross-cutting issues were identified, including generic referencing, clarified definitions,

³⁹ [Mapping of the Mandates of ISA organs, prepared by the co-facilitators.](#)

⁴⁰ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/IM/CRP.1/Rev.1.](#)

⁴¹ [ISBA/27/C/2.](#)

⁴² [ISBA/27/C/3](#) to and including [ISBA/27/C/12.](#)

⁴³ [ISBA/27/C/WOW/CRP.1](#)

⁴⁴ [ISBA/27/C/43.](#) The [study](#) was released on 31 May 2023.

⁴⁵ [ISBA/27/C/42.](#) The Commission has prepared a call for the nomination of experts which was opened for application in September 2023.

⁴⁶ See Annex II of [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#)

⁴⁷ [ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.2](#)

⁴⁸ [ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.4](#)

⁴⁹ [ISBA/28/C/TWG/ENV/CRP.1.](#)

streamlining and coherence of the text. Furthermore, consideration was also given regarding the recently agreed draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction to find consistency and alignment somehow. Several intersessional working groups were established during the meeting and it was agreed that they would provide input for the Facilitator's third revised text ahead of the second part of the twenty-eighth session. The Facilitator's third revised text was presented during the meeting in July 2023.⁵⁰ It was well received, and the group managed to conduct a reading of draft regulations 43 to 48. During the meeting, it was agreed that greater focus should be placed on the standards and guidelines and that the Facilitator would prepare a matrix that would contain what elements could go into existing standards and guidelines and what new standards and guidelines should be provided based on the development of the work in the group. It was also agreed that the Facilitator would prepare a fourth revised text and that the reading would resume from draft regulation 49.

29. In the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement, the Facilitator presented her further revised text during the meeting of the group in March 2022.⁵¹ One of the main topics of the group was the discussion of the most appropriate inspection mechanism, cf. article 162(2)(z) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Several different views were presented, and an intersessional working group volunteered to try to seek consensus between the different views. During the second part of the twenty-eighth session, a hybrid model was proposed, according to which a Compliance Committee is established within the Legal and Technical Commission. During the same meeting, the Facilitator's third revised text was presented.⁵² The group did not decide on an inspection mechanism, but the group agreed to continue the discussions based on the hybrid model.

30. The Informal Working group on Institutional Matters resumed its reading of the co-facilitators revised text at the meeting in March 2023.⁵³ A new text (compilation for the resumed reading) was provided for the meeting in July 2023.⁵⁴ During the meeting in July 2023, the co-facilitators also made a presentation on effective control ahead of a webinar concerning the same topic. A webinar was held on 1 September where presentations were made on effective control with a focus on implications for Sponsoring States and their obligations to regulate the contractors.⁵⁵

31. In respect of the President's text, the first reading was reassumed and was finalized during the first part of the twenty-eighth session. This reading was based on an updated President's text.⁵⁶ In July, the President presented a revised text, that contained a thorough streamlining, which was appreciated by delegations and observers.⁵⁷

32. During the third part of the twenty-eighth session, the Council considered a draft roadmap prepared by the President for the future organization of the Council's work on the draft regulations and associated standards and guidelines. These discussions were carried out based on the President's briefing note of 29 June 2023.⁵⁸ On 21 July 2023, the Council adopted a decision on a timeline and modalities for the work of the Council until July 2024 and endorsed a new roadmap.⁵⁹

33. During the meetings in March and July 2023, several delegations expressed an interest in making available a consolidated negotiating text of the draft regulations, which would identify areas of overlap, duplication and omission and address the need for harmonisation between the various provisions and related annexes. It was thus agreed in the roadmap, to issue such a consolidated negotiating text after the third part of the twenty-eighth session. It was also agreed that ahead of the meeting in November 2023, a collation of the current texts of the informal working groups will be provided.

⁵⁰ [ISBA/28/C/TWG/ENV/CRP.2.](#)

⁵¹ [ISBA/28/C/TWG/ICE/CRP.1.](#)

⁵² [ICE/28/C/TWG/ICE/CRP.2.](#)

⁵³ [ISBA/27/C/TWG/IM/CRP.1/Rev.1.](#)

⁵⁴ [ISBA/28/C/TWG/IM/CRP.1.](#)

⁵⁵ The presentations can be accessed via the ISA website; <https://www.isa.org.jm/events/webinar-informal-working-group-on-institutional-matters-effective-control/>

⁵⁶ [ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1](#)

⁵⁷ [ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1/Rev.1.](#)

⁵⁸ [President's Briefing note of 29 June 2023.](#)

⁵⁹ [ISBA/28/C/24.](#)

34. During part III of the twenty-eight session, the Council considered a proposal submitted by the African Group and adopted a decision relating to the establishment of the position of an interim director general of the Enterprise.⁶⁰ Finally, the study on the environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area, requested by the Council ([ISBA/27/C/43](#)) was released on 31 May 2023,⁶¹ together with a note by the Secretariat on the background and the solicitation and selection process.⁶²

⁶⁰ [ISBA/28/C/23](#).

⁶¹ [Study on the environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area](#).

⁶² [Note by the Secretariat](#) on a study on the environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area.

Annex I

Timeline of regulatory development from 2011 to 2023

2011	
July	Fiji issued a statement in which it requested the Council to begin consideration of regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area (ISBA/17/C/22), and the Council requested the secretariat to prepare a strategic workplan for the formulation of regulations for the exploitation of deep-sea minerals in the Area.
2012	
July	The Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the workplan for the formulation of regulations for the exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the Area (ISBA/18/C/4).
2013	
July	The Commission discussed issues relating to proposed regulations for the exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the Area. Members of the Commission acknowledged the work done by the secretariat in producing ISA Technical Study No. 11, entitled “Towards the Development of a Regulatory Framework for Polymetallic Nodule Exploitation in the Area”. The Commission considered that the proposed strategic plan set out in chapter 10 of the study provided a useful indication as to how the Authority could proceed to develop the regulatory framework. The Commission endorsed the suggestion to prepare background studies and conduct a stakeholder survey (ISBA/19/C/14).
	The Council commended and took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of an exploitation code for polymetallic nodules in the Area and agreed that more in-depth studies should be done. The Legal and Technical Commission was also encouraged to review those issues while continuing its work on the drafting of the mining code (ISBA/19/C/18).
2014	
February	The Commission considered a detailed technical study on the development of a financial regime for deep-sea mineral exploitation (ISBA/20/C/20).
March	The secretariat launched a stakeholder survey aimed at soliciting relevant information for the development of a regulatory framework for the exploitation of minerals in the Area from members of the Authority and other stakeholders (ISBA/20/C/20).
July	The Commission considered the responses to the stakeholder survey and requested the secretariat to prepare a possible draft framework of the regulations for exploitation (ISBA/20/C/20).
	The Council requested the Commission to continue its work on the regulations governing exploitation as a matter of priority and to make available to all members of the Authority and all stakeholders a draft framework for the regulation of exploitation as soon as possible after its February 2015 meeting (ISBA/20/C/31).
2015	
February	The Commission decided to circulate a draft exploitation framework to all stakeholders, together with a summary of the high-level issues under discussion. In addition, the Commission agreed to circulate a draft action plan flowing from the draft regulatory framework. The Commission agreed to provide to the Council in July 2015 an updated report, including a revised draft framework and revised action plan following the receipt of stakeholder responses to the framework report, together with a summary of priority action areas (ISBA/21/C/16).
June	A stakeholder workshop was held in Singapore in relation to the draft framework and a payment mechanism (see briefing paper 04/2015).
July	The Commission discussed the stakeholder responses to the suggested draft framework, high-level issues and action plan and issued a revised draft framework and action plan, taking account of any material comments by stakeholders (ISBA/21/C/16).
	The Council took note with appreciation of the Commission’s work on the framework for the exploitation regulations, requested the Commission to continue its work on exploitation regulations as a matter of priority and endorsed the Commission’s list of priority deliverables

	for the development of the exploitation code over the following 12 to 18 months, as set out in annex III to the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/21/C/20).
2016	
July	The Commission issued a report containing the first draft regulations and standard contract terms on exploitation for stakeholder consultation (ISBA/22/C/17).
2017	
February	The Commission considered a report by the secretariat containing an overview of stakeholder submissions of the first working draft and continued its review of the draft regulations (ISBA/23/C/13).
March to July	Several technical workshops and seminars held in relation to the draft regulations
August	The Commission prepared revised draft regulations and invited comments from stakeholders (ISBA/23/LTC/CRP.3).
2018	
March	Following stakeholder consultation, the Commission considered revised draft regulations, which included provisions suggested by its working groups. It requested the secretariat to incorporate its suggestions and comments into the text and to produce a further revised version (ISBA/24/C/9).
July	The Commission issued revised draft regulations (ISBA/24/LTC/WP.1/Rev.1). The Council responded to the Commission with comments on the revised draft regulations and released the revised draft regulations for stakeholder consultation (ISBA/24/C/8/Add.1 , annex I).
December	The secretariat issued a note containing an overview of stakeholders' comments on the draft regulations (ISBA/25/C/2).
2019	
March	The Commission provided the Council with its final recommendations on the draft regulations following stakeholder consultation (ISBA/25/C/WP.1).
July	The Council considered the draft regulations as contained in document ISBA/25/C/WP.1 , together with an explanatory note from the Commission (ISBA/25/C/18). The Council invited stakeholders to provide additional comments by October 2019 (ISBA/26/C/2).
2020	
February	The Council considered stakeholders' comments and drafting suggestions and agreed to establish three informal working groups on remaining thematic issues (ISBA/26/C/11). The Council adopted a decision requesting the Legal and Technical Commission, in consultation with the Finance Committee if necessary, to further develop the "Guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans", with a view to recommending to the Council a standardized approach, including a template with indicative elements (ISBA/26/C/10).
July	The Commission considered and took note of a report to the Authority on the study of the potential impact of polymetallic nodule production from the Area on the economies of developing land-based producers and inter alia the Commission recommended that the Council considered establishing an economic assistance fund (ISBA/26/C/12/Add.1). The Secretariat issued a note on draft regulation 30 and draft annex VI concerning a health and safety plan and maritime security plan (ISBA/26/C/17). The Commission decided to issue, for stakeholder consultation, the text of three sets of standard and guidelines and the Commission decided to continue the development of the remaining standard and guidelines identified for the first phase (ISBA/26/C/12/Add.1).
2021	
March-April	The Commission continued to consider the development of phase I standards and guidelines as a priority matter and the Commission released the text of further seven draft standard and guidelines for stakeholder consultation until July (ISBA/26/C/12/Add.2).
July	The President of the Council received a letter from the President of the Republic of Nauru with a notification that Nauru Ocean Resources Inc intended to apply for approval of a plan of work for exploitation and pursuant to section 1, paragraph 15 of the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Nauru requested the Council to complete the adoption of rules, regulations and procedures necessary to facilitate the approval of plans of work for exploitation in the Area

	within two years of the operative date of the request. The operative date was set to 9 July 2021 (ISBA/26/C/38 , Enclosure).
September	The Commission considered the stakeholder comments received in 2020 and 2021 (ISBA/26/C/12/Add.2).
December	The Council resumed the twenty-sixth session of the Council, and a proposed road map for 2022 and 2023 (ISBA/26/C/44) were discussed and it was noted that it was necessary to accelerate the work on the draft regulations, but without compromising on the quality of the text, and that “nothing is agreed, until everything is agreed” (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1). During the same meeting, the Council endorsed the road map, as further revised (ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1, Annex).
2022	
January	The Chair of the Commission issued a report along with the release of the revised draft standard and guidelines, providing reasons and methodology for the Commissions revisions (ISBA/27/C/2).
	The Commission released revised draft standard and guidelines (ISBA/27/C/3 to ISBA/27/C/12).
February	The Secretariat provided a Regulation-by-Regulation Compilation of Textual Proposals received by Members, Observers and Stakeholders by 15 October.
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment presented a Facilitator’s revised text (ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1)
March	The President of the Council presented a briefing paper on the work of the Plenary concerning the draft regulations and the consideration of phase I draft standards and guidelines.
	The Chair of the OEWG and the facilitators of the informal working groups prepared briefing papers on their respective areas of work.
July	The Chair of the OEWG presented a briefing note with a Chair’s text .
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement presented a Facilitator’s text (ISBA/27/C/IWG/ICE/CRP.1)
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment presented a Facilitator’s revised text (ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1/Rev.1)
	The Co-facilitators’ of the Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters presented a Co-Facilitators’ text for the preamble and draft regulations 1-5 (ISBA/27/C/IWG/IM/CRP.1)
	The Commission provided the Council with its Report and Recommendations on the procedure and criteria for consideration of a request for the transfer of rights and obligations under a contract for exploration (ISBA/27/C/16/Add.1 , section IV and ISBA/27/C/35).
	The Commission provided the Council with its Report and Recommendations on a Guidance to facilitate the development of regional environmental management plans (or standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans in the Area, including a template with indicative elements) (ISBA/27/C/37).
	The Commission presented to the consideration of the Council a Regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits (ISBA/27/C/38).
October- November	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement presented a Facilitator’s revised text (ISBA/27/C/IWG/ICE/CRP.1/Rev.2)
	The Co-facilitators’ of the Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters presented a Co-Facilitators’ revised text for draft regulations 1-5 (ISBA/27/C/IWG/IM/CRP.1/Rev.1).
	The President of the Council presented a President’s text including the sections not covered by any of the working groups, which represents a compilation for the resumed reading (ISBA/27/C/WOW/CRP.1).
	The Council adopted a decision relating to the development of binding environmental threshold values (ISBA/27/C/42), to be prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission as binding standards with the support of an expert group, and present a report and recommendations after a stakeholder consultation.
	The Council requests the Secretary-General to commission an independent study to assess the value of ecosystem services and natural capital of the Area, as well as of the potential environmental costs of potential activities in the Area, including by incorporating estimates of monetary values of effects on ecological functions and ecosystem services (ISBA/27/C/43).

	The Council endorsed a roadmap for the organization of its discussions during the twenty-eight session of the Council (ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2)
2023	
March	The Chair of the OEWG presented a Chair's revised draft text (ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.2)
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement presented a Facilitator's further revised text (ISBA/28/C/IWG/ICE/CRP.1)
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment presented her further revised draft text (ISBA/28/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1)
	The President of the Council presented the President's text with compiled proposals from the meeting in March (ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1)
	The Commission presented its considerations in respect of the development of standards on environmental threshold values and proposed terms of reference for the intersessional expert group detailing a nomination process (ISBA/28/C/5).
June	The Chair of the OEWG presented a Chair's further revised text (ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.4)
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement presented a Facilitator's third revised draft text (ISBA/28/C/IWG/ICE/CRP.2)
	The Facilitator of the Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment presented a Facilitator's revised draft text (ISBA/28/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.2/Rev.1)
	The Co-facilitators of the Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters presented a Co-Facilitator's text on draft regulations 6-15, section 4 and part IX, XII and XIII (ISBA/28/C/IWG/IM/CRP.1)
	The President of the Council presented the President's revised draft text (ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1/Rev.1)
July	The Commission presented the continued work in respect of the development of standards on environmental threshold values and the specificities in relation to the appointment of co-chairs of three intersessional expert groups (ISBA/28/C/5/Add.1).
	The Council decided to establish a position of an interim director general of the Enterprise (ISBA/28/C/23).
	The Council endorsed a new timeline for the preparation of the draft exploitation regulations and a road map for the work until part II of the twenty-ninth session (ISBA/28/C/24).

Annex II

List of relevant documents, reports and studies relating to the draft regulations

Draft regulations

- Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission ([ISBA/25/C/WP.1](#))
- Note by the secretariat on draft regulation 30 and draft annex VI to the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/26/C/17](#))

Latest texts Facilitators:

- The Facilitator's third revised draft text on Parts IV and VI and related Annexes Prepared by the Facilitator, Ms. Raijeli Taga (Fiji), of the **Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment**, [ISBA/28/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.2/Rev.1](#) (21 June 2023)
- The Chair's further revised draft text on Part VII, Appendix IV and draft Standard and Guidelines Prepared by the Chair, Olav Myklebust (Norway), of the **Open-ended Working Group of the Council on the financial terms of a contract** under article 13, paragraph 1 of Annex III to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and under section 8 of the Annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (OEWG), [ISBA/28/C/OEWG/CRP.4](#) (20 June 2023)
- The Facilitator's third revised draft text on Part XI Prepared by the Facilitator, Ambassador Maureen Tamuno (Nigeria), of the **Informal Working Group on Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement**, [ISBA/28/C/IWG/ICE/CRP.2](#) (26 June 2023)
- Co-Facilitator's Text (compilation for the resumed reading) Parts V, IX, XII, XIII, and Appendix III Prepared by the Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Georgina Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica) and Mr. Salvador Vega Telias (Chile), of the **Informal Working Group on Institutional Matters**, [ISBA/28/C/IWG/IM/CRP.1](#) (29 June 2023)
- The **President's revised draft text** Prepared by the President of the Council for the twenty-eight session, Ambassador Juan José González Mijares (Mexico), [ISBA/28/C/WOW/CRP.1/Rev.1](#) (13 June 2023)

Revised draft standards and guidelines

- Draft guideline on the preparation and assessment of an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploitation ([ISBA/27/C/3](#))
- Draft standard and guidelines on the development and application of environmental management systems ([ISBA/27/C/4](#))
- Draft standard and guidelines on the form and calculation of an environmental performance guarantee ([ISBA/27/C/5](#))
- Draft guidelines for the establishment of baseline environmental data ([ISBA/27/C/6](#)) ([ISBA/27/C/6/Corr.1](#))
- Draft standard and guidelines for environmental impact assessment process ([ISBA/27/C/7](#))
- Draft guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement ([ISBA/27/C/8](#))
- Draft guidelines for the preparation of environmental management and monitoring plans ([ISBA/27/C/9](#))
- Draft guidelines on tools and techniques for hazard identification and risk assessments ([ISBA/27/C/10](#))
- Draft standard and guidelines for the safe management and operation of mining vessels and installations ([ISBA/27/C/11](#))
- Draft standard and guidelines for the preparation and implementation of emergency response and contingency plans ([ISBA/27/C/12](#))

Other documents

2023

- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the understanding and application of section 1, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (ISBA/28/C/9)
- Decision of the Council relating to the establishment of the position of an interim director general of the Enterprise (ISBA/28/C/10)
- Statement of the President on the work of the Council of the International Seabed Authority during the first and second part of the twenty-eighth session. [[ISBA/28/C/11](#) - [ISBA/28/C/11/Add.1](#)]
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the establishment of the position of an interim director general of the Enterprise ([ISBA/28/C/23](#))
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority on a timeline following the expiration of the two-year period pursuant to section 1, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([ISBA/28/C/24](#)).
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the understanding and application of section 1, paragraph 15, of the Annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([ISBA/28/C/25](#)).
- [Note](#) by the secretariat on the report on environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area.

2022

- Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission summarizing stakeholder feedback on the phase 1 draft standards and guidelines [[ISBA/27/C/2](#)]
- Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the first part of the twenty-seventh session. [[ISBA/27/C/21](#), [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.1](#) and [ISBA/27/C/21/Add.2](#)]
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the commissioning by the secretariat of a study on the internalization of environmental costs of exploitation activities in the Area into the production costs of minerals from the Area ([ISBA/27/C/43](#))
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the development of binding environmental threshold values ([ISBA/27/C/42](#).)
- Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the possible scenarios and any other pertinent legal considerations in connection with section 1, paragraph 15, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([ISBA/27/C/45](#))
- Development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area pursuant to section 9, paragraph 7 (f), of the annex to the 1994 Agreement. Report of the Secretary-General. ([ISBA/27/FC/2](#))

2021

- Status of the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and a proposed roadmap for 2022 and 2023. [[ISBA/26/C/44](#)]
- Summary on options for a seabed sustainability fund. Report of the Secretary-General ([ISBA/26/FC/8](#))

2020

- Note by the secretariat on Comments on the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/26/C/2](#))
- Decision of the Council concerning working methods to advance discussions on the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area [[ISBA/26/C/11](#)]
- Statement by the President of the Council on the work of the Council during the first part of the twenty-sixth session [[ISBA/26/C/13](#) and [ISBA/26/C/13/Add.1](#)]
- Draft regulation 30 and draft annex VI to the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area [[ISBA/26/C/17](#)]
- Report of the Finance Committee, Development of rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area pursuant to section

9, paragraph 7 (f), of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ([ISBA/26/A/24-ISBA/26/C/39](#))

2019

- Note by the Secretariat on the Comments on the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/2](#))
- Note by the secretariat on the content and development of standards and guidelines for activities in the Area under the Authority's regulatory framework ([ISBA/25/C/3](#))
- Note by the secretariat on the relationship between the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and regional environmental management plans ([ISBA/25/C/4](#))
- Note by the secretariat on implementing an inspection mechanism for activities in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/5](#))
- Note by the secretariat on the delegation of functions by the Council and regulatory efficiency ([ISBA/25/C/6](#))
- Note by the secretariat on implementing the precautionary approach to activities in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/8](#))
- Note by the secretariat on the consideration of a mechanism and process for the independent review of environmental plans and performance assessments under the regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/10](#)).
- Note by the secretariat on key terms: distinguishing between good industry practice and best practices under the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/11](#))
- Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/18](#))

2018

- Note by the secretariat on the functions of the organs of the Authority in relation to the preparation of rules, regulations and procedures on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and in relation to the system of compensation envisaged under article 151 (10) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([ISBA/24/C/10](#))
- Note by the Legal and Technical Commission on the draft regulations on Exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/24/C/20](#)).
- Rules, regulations and procedures on the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits derived from activities in the Area ([ISBA/24/FC/4](#))

2017

- Note by the secretariat on the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/23/C/12](#)).

Studies, reports, and workshop reports

2023

- Discussion Paper on the Rights and obligations of ISA and the sponsoring State ([02/2023](#))
- Discussion Paper on Effective control ([01/2023](#))
- [Report](#) on the value of ecosystem services and natural capital of the Area, Dr. Luke Brander and Ms. Victoria Guisado Goni.
- [Analysis](#) of Financial Payment System for Deep Sea Mining of Polymetallic Nodules, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and related [modelling](#).
- [Report](#) on the Proposed Payment Regimes for Deep Sea Mining, Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development and related [modelling](#).
- [Key Findings from IGF Draft Report on Payment Regimes for Deep Sea Mining](#)
- Financial Payment System [Modeling](#) for Polymetallic Nodules, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- [Analysis](#) of Additional Royalty Payment with Reduced Sponsor State CIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- [Workshop](#) on the development of a REMP for the Area of the Indian Ocean, with a focus on the mid-ocean ridges and central Indian Ocean basin.

2022

- [ISA Technical Study No.32](#), “Study of the potential impact of polymetallic nodule production in the Area on the economies of developing land-based producers of those metals which are likely to be most seriously affected”.
- [ISA Technical Study No. 31](#), “Equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits from deep-seabed mining.
- [ISA Technical Study No. 29](#), “Remote monitoring systems in support of inspection and compliance in the Area”.
- [Re-cap of the Financial Payment System Modeling for Polymetallic Nodules. Richard Roth, Randolph Kirchain, Tom Peacock Materials System Laboratory Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)
- [Financial Payment System Modeling for Polymetallic Nodules Valuation Options & Issue of Mn Products](#)
- Matrix of rights and obligations of the ISA and the Sponsoring State ([ISBA/27/C/CRP.4](#)). [ADSR project](#) with focus on inspection and compliance.
- Policy Brief on the Environmental Compensation Fund, [02/2022](#).
- [Offshore Indirect Transfers: Taxing the Sale of Mining Assets –Primer from Landbased mining practices. Thomas Lassourd](#)

2021

- [ISA Technical Study No. 27](#), “Study on an Environmental Compensation Fund for Activities in the Area”.
- [ISA Technical Study No. 26](#), “Competencies of the International Seabed Authority and the International Labour Organization in the context of activities in the Area”.

2020

- [Update: Report](#) to the International Seabed Authority on the Development of an Economic Model and System of Payments for the Exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules in the Area Based on Stakeholder Feedback”, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- [Study](#) of the Potential Impact of Polymetallic Nodules Production from the Area on the Economies of Developing Land-based Producers of those Metals which are Likely to be Most Seriously Affected, Russian Scientific Research Institute of Mineral Resources.
- [Analysis of Tax Regimes](#): Comparative Analysis of Tax Regimes of Land-based Mining in 15 Countries, RMG Consulting.
- A [Study](#) to Determine the Appropriate Social Discount Rate for the International Seabed Authority, Mark Freeman, Ben Groom and Zachary M. Turk.
- [Presentation](#) on Developing a Financial Model for Other Deep-sea Minerals.

2019

- [ISA Technical Study No. 25](#), “Competencies of the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organization in the Context of Activities in the Area”
- [ISA Technical Study No. 24](#), “Deep Seabed Mining and Submarine Cables”.
- [Financial Regimes](#) for Polymetallic Nodule Mining: A Comparison of Four Economic Models (MIT/MSL Presentation)

2017

- [ISA Technical Study No. 16](#): “Environmental Assessment and Management for Exploitation of Minerals in the Area”

- [ISA Technical Study No. 17](#): “Towards an ISA Environmental Management Strategy for the Area”
- [Developing a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area: A Discussion Paper on the Development and drafting of Regulations on Exploitations for Mineral Resources in the Area \(Environmental Matters\)](#)
- [The Implementation of the Precautionary Approach by the International Seabed Authority](#)

2016

- [Discussion Paper on Dispute Resolution Considerations Arising Under the Proposed New Exploitation Regulations](#)
- [Discussion Paper on Data and Information Management Considerations Arising Under the Proposed New Exploration Regulations](#)
- [Developing a Communications and Engagement Strategy for the International Seabed Authority to Ensure Active Stakeholder Participation in the Development of a Minerals Exploitation Code](#)
- [Enforcement and Liability Challenges for Environmental Regulation of Deep Seabed Mining](#)

2015

- [Developing a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area: A Discussion Paper on the Development and Implementation of a Payment Mechanism in the Area for Consideration by Members of the Authority and all Stakeholders](#)
- [Developing a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area: Report to members of the Authority and Stakeholders](#)
- [Developing a Regulatory Framework for Deep Sea Mineral Exploitation in the Area: Draft Framework, High-Level Issues and Action Plan, version II.](#)

2014

- [Making the Most of Deep Seabed Mineral Resources: Developing Financial Terms for Deep Sea Mining Exploitation](#)

2013

- [ISA Technical Study No. 11](#), “Towards the Development of a Regulatory Framework for Polymetallic Nodule Exploitation in the Area”

Other sources

In addition to the materials above, the Council has facilitated several rounds of stakeholder consultation with regard to the draft regulations. Details of the stakeholder consultations and of all submissions received are available at <https://www.isa.org.jm/the-mining-code/draft-exploitation-regulations>.