

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:council@isa.org.jm).

**1. Name of Working Group:**

Informal Working Group on the protection and preservation of the marine environment

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

Canada

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

IV. 5.4 Biological Environment and Alt 5.4.1

**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.**

**5.4 Biological environment**

Provide a description of biological properties in the Impact Area, including diversity, abundance, biomass, life history parameters, relevant behaviour, including feeding rates, community-level analyses, connectivity, trophic relationships, resilience, ecosystem functions and services as well as seasonality and spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal variability. Any work on ecosystem models and appropriate ecosystem indicators, etc., should also be presented here. This section should span the size range from megafauna to microbial communities.

The description of the fauna is structured by depth range, as this enables a direct linkage to the source and location of an impact. For each depth zone, (at least surface, midwater and benthic as below) there should be a description of the taxonomic/ecological groups (e.g., plankton, fish, marine mammals, marine turtles, benthic microbial invertebrates, demersal scavengers) in accordance with the Authority’s Guidelines.

The biological communities and ecosystem functions, structured by depth ranges in accordance with the relevant Standards and [taking into account] Regional Environmental Management Plans, may encompass:

1. surface seawater
2. epipelagic zone (< 200 metres)
3. mesopelagic zone (200-1000 metres).
4. bathypelagic zone (1000 - 4000 metres).
5. abyssopelagic zone (4000 - 6000 metres).
6. hadalpelagic zone (> 6000 meters).
7. demersal zone (part of the water column near to and significantly affected by the seabed), and
8. benthic zone.

The description should evaluate the temporal and spatial variability in distribution and composition.

The description should include the size distributions of the fauna and their life history stages (such as larval and juvenile stages, which differ from the adult stage). Discussions of species should include considerations of whether they are endemic (restricted to just the site, resource substrate or region) or are known to be rare, threatened or endangered.,

Migratory and highly mobile species should be included where foraging ranges / migration pathways / management units have been noted as overlapping with proposed operations during scoping.

#### **5.4.1 Surface**

Describe the biological communities from the surface to a depth of 200 metres, including microbes plankton (phytoplankton and zooplankton), surface/near-surface fish such as tuna, and seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals. Address factors provided in 5.4, as well as spatial and temporal variability.

##### **Alt. 5.4.1 Surface**

~~— Describe the biological communities and ecosystem functions, structured by depth ranges in accordance with relevant Standards and [taking into account] Regional Environmental Management Plan, which may encompass:~~

~~1. surface seawater~~

~~2.1. epipelagic zone (< 200 metres)~~

~~3.1. mesopelagic zone (200-1000 metres),~~

~~4.1. bathypelagic zone (1000-4000 metres),~~

~~5.1. abyssopelagic zone (4000-6000 metres),~~

~~6.1. hadalpelagic zone (> 6000 meters),~~

~~7.1. demersal zone (part of the water column near to and significantly affected by the seabed), and~~

~~8.1. benthic zone.~~

~~The description should evaluate the temporal and spatial variability in distribution and composition.~~

#### **5.4.2 Midwater**

Describe the pelagic fauna and their habitat in the open water from a depth of 200 metres down to 50 metres above the sea floor, and include zooplankton, nekton, mesopelagic, bathypelagic and abyssopelagic fishes and deep-diving mammals. Address factors provided in 5.4, as well as spatial and temporal variability.

#### **5.4.3 Benthic**

Describe the benthic microbial, invertebrate and fish communities, including infauna, epifauna and demersal fish, up to an altitude of 50

metres above the sea floor. This should include considerations of species richness, biodiversity, faunal densities, community structures and connectivity, etc. Ecosystem functions, such as Bioturbation, habitat supply and elemental cycling etc. should also be covered in this section. Address factors provided in 5.4, as well as spatial and temporal variability.

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

5.4 The paragraph above had omitted wording related to what was being asked for each depth zone. A description of the taxonomic/ecological groups should be provided for each depth zone. Further, this should be in accordance with (or following) the Authority's Guidelines. We suggest merging Alt 5.4.1 Surface with the 5.4. para as the content does not provide a description of the surface but rather the different depth zones.