

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC6)

DEEP-SEA MINING

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.4

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

Recommended for adoption.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- A very contemporary, comprehensive and coherent document, compatible with other forums.
- It should be noted that deep-sea mining also has potentially serious impacts on the carbon cycle and climate change by releasing carbon stored in deep-sea sediments and disrupting the processes that help sequester carbon and deliver it to those sediments.
- It was noted that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has an Intersessional Correspondence Group on deep-sea mining, which will report back to the IWC Scientific Committee meeting in 2024, and send the report to the CMS Secretariat.
- A general approach was suggested for new and emerging issues: the Secretariat could organize a webinar for the Scientific Council in the intersessional period.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Page 2, paragraph 5: It was noted that the Agreement under UNCLOS on the 'conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction' has now been adopted, and therefore the text, "currently under negotiation" and "draft", should be removed.

Draft Resolution

- Page 7, add a new paragraph after the 6th preambular paragraph:

Noting Decision 15/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the *Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity*, which "encourages Parties and invites other Governments to ensure that, before deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities take place, the impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity are sufficiently researched and the risks understood, the technologies and operational practices do not cause harmful effects to the marine environment and biodiversity, and appropriate rules, regulations and procedures are put in place by the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with the best available science and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior

and informed consent, and the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, and consistent with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant international law”

- Page 7, amend the last preambular paragraph to the draft Resolution:

Noting that the International Seabed Authority (ISA), established in 1982 under UNCLOS, is the organization through which State Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral resources-related activities, and *further noting* that ISA regulates exploration for and exploitation of deep-seabed minerals found beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities,

- Page 8, amend operative paragraph 3:

3. *Urges* Parties not to engage in deep-sea mining until sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to make informed decisions as to whether deep-sea mining and related activities do not cause harmful effects ~~can be undertaken without significant damage~~ to the marine environment and its unique fauna, and if so, under what conditions;

- Page 8, remove the square brackets from operative paragraph 4, as per the note made above for paragraph 5 on page 2.