



## WORKSHOP FOR DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS (REMPs) FOR POLYMETALLIC SULPHIDE DEPOSITS ON MID-OCEAN RIDGES



Dates: 27-29 June 2018

Location: University of Szczecin, Faculty of Geosciences, Educational and Research Centre for Natural Sciences (Geocentrum), 16A Mickiewicza St. , 70-383 Szczecin, Poland.

### Terms of Reference

#### *Background*

1. The ISA Council has requested the ISA Secretariat to advance the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans (REMPs; [ISBA/24/C/3](#)) similar to the REMP developed for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone ([ISBA/17/LTC/7](#)). The focus of these REMPs should be on other areas and mineral resources where there are exploration contracts. REMPs are developed under the auspices of the ISA in a transparent manner, with engagement from all stakeholders.
2. The objective of this workshop, in broad terms, is to provide the relevant organs of the Authority, as well as contractors and their sponsoring states, with a proactive area-based management tool to support informed decision-making that balances resource development with conservation for REMPs for polymetallic sulphides on Mid-Ocean Ridges.
3. Regional Environmental Management Plans also provide the Authority with a clear and consistent mechanism to identify particular areas thought to be representative of the full range of habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem structures and functions within the relevant management area, and provide those areas with appropriate levels of protection, thus helping the Authority to meet internationally agreed targets, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.
4. As a first step, it was proposed to convene an international workshop in the first quarter of 2018 in order to consider an appropriate methodology for the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans in all parts of the Area where there are contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides. The workshop participants would be able to review the status of existing data and scientific initiatives and make recommendations for a process for the development of such plans under the auspices of the Authority.
5. This Workshop has been programmed and will take place in Szczecin-Poland, June 27-29, 2018. It is jointly sponsored by the University of Szczecin, and will review relevant ISA regulations, scientific initiatives, best knowledge and best practices.

6. The outcomes of the workshop will enable the Secretariat to propose next steps, road map, in the development of REMPs for deep-sea areas with polymetallic massive sulphides to the relevant bodies, such as the Legal and Technical Commission.
7. This workshop is open to all stakeholders for participation and they must register online to make sure they are included in the logistics organized by University of Szczecin-Poland and the Authority.
8. Workshop deliberations and outcomes will be published in a Technical Study, edited by the Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat. The outcome and recommendations of this workshop will cover the following items:

**DRAFT TECHNICAL STUDY CONTENTS WILL INCLUDE:**

- An Executive Summary
  - Terms of Reference
  - Workshop Presentation Summaries (requested in advance)
  - Consensus answers/discussions to Plenary Questions 1-7 in the agenda
  - Template for Mid-Ocean Ridge REMPS based on the reports from the break-out groups
    - A) critical elements
    - B) environmental management goals, objectives, and targets for REMPS
    - C) design principles for area-based environmental management in REMPS
    - D) other considerations arising
    - E) a roadmap for developing REMPS on the global Mid-Ocean Ridge
  - Recommendations to the Legal and Technical Commission
9. The Terms of reference as well as the provisional Agenda has been the result of a joint effort of an Steering Committee formed by the following individuals:

*Steering Committee (in alphabetical order)*

- Dr. Stefan Bräger, ISA Secretariat, Jamaica
  - Dr. Ana Colaço, Universidade dos Açores, Portugal
  - Dr. Andrey Gebruk, Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russia
  - Dr. Gwenaelle Le Gurun, ISA Secretariat, Jamaica
  - Dr. Anna Metaxas, Dalhousie University, Canada
  - Dr. Sandor Mulsow, ISA Secretariat, Jamaica
  - Dr. Teresa Radziejewska, University of Szczecin, Poland
  - Dr. Cindy Lee Van Dover, Duke University, USA
  - Dr. Xue-Wei Xu, Second Institute of Oceanography, SOA, China
  - Dr. Hiroyuki Yamamoto, JAMSTEC, Japan
10. Participants will include ISA contractors, member states, representatives from government agencies and NGOs, representatives from relevant international governance bodies, and science and legal experts from academia.
  11. Participants invited to present should submit a 500 to 750-word abstract (including references) in advance or before the end of the workshop.

12. Participants invited to lead discussions on key elements will be asked to write succinct summaries (500 words or less) of the consensus views plus any alternative views.
13. The workshop will be divided in 2 sections: Section one: presentations on key elements of the geological, ecological and habitat perspective. These presentations will include international experts, representative of the contractors for exploration for polymetallic massive sulphides. Section 2: the participants will be requested to appoint themselves in one of the following working groups:
  - (a) WG 1: Environmental management goals, objectives, and targets for REMPs
  - (b) WG 2: Critical elements of REMPs
  - (c) WG 3: Design principles for area-based environmental management in REMPs
  - (d) WG 4: Roadmap for future REMP for polymetallic massive sulphides at Mid-Ocean Ridges with the essential steps on a timeline to deliver, amongst other: compilations of available data, identification of data/knowledge gaps, capacity building, stakeholder engagement.
14. Participants serving as moderators and rapporteurs should deliver draft summaries of their breakout group findings using bullet lists with explanatory detail as appropriate by the close of the workshop.
15. The Steering Committee agreed to provide a set of key elements that need to be addressed by the working groups. These key elements should guide the working group discussion and the moderators to lead each working group. The key elements are:
  - (i) *What does a REMP address? Who are its stakeholders? What are the main goals of REMPs?*
  - (ii) *What should be the key elements of REMPs to achieve these goals?*
  - (iii) *What elements of REMPs might be best addressed by Contractors and by the ISA?*
  - (iv) *What are the mechanisms through which REMPs consider VMEs, EBSAs, PSSAs, other conservation areas or potential conservation areas such as active vent ecosystems?*
  - (v) *How might ABMT, cumulative impacts (including climate change), other activities (e.g., cables, shipping, fishing, extant or future) best be accounted for in REMPs?*
  - (vi) *How should EEZs, regional conventions be taken into account?*

### *References*

[ISBA/24/C/3](#) (annex 1)

[ISBA/17/LTC/7](#) (annex 2)