

Intervention: IASS (Observer) on item 13.

### **Item 13: The CCZ EMP review ISBA/26/C/43**

Thank you, Mr President, for allowing us to take the floor. We thank the LTC for their valuable work on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the CCZ. We have 3 brief points:

1. On **baselines**, Operational Objective 1 of the EMP is to establish and update environmental baselines for the CCZ. It is somewhat unclear why this objective is listed as “implemented” in table 1 of ISBA/26/C/43 when at the same time, the LTC has reported that not enough is being done to create environmental baselines. Here we refer to ISBA/26/C/12/Add.1, para. 13
2. On **Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEIs)**: while we welcome efforts to create additional APEIs, these need to have the same 100 km buffer zone as the existing APEIs. Reducing such buffers would set a problematic precedent and would greatly reduce the environmental value of such APEIs.
3. On environmental **data**: we note that there are concerns surrounding the availability and usability of such data, however, we do acknowledge that DeepData is still “work in progress” and will improve over time. We suggest that in order for environmental information to be user-friendly also for non-scientists and decision-makers, the information could be presented in regional environmental baseline reports or quality status reports, as is envisaged in the Environmental Management Plan for the Clarion Clipperton Zone (see para 52 of ISBA/17/LTC/7).

We thank you, Mr President.