



Template for the review of the draft standards and guidelines associated with the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area

I. Background

1. The draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/WP.1](#)) require that certain issues are addressed in accordance with, or taking into account, standards and guidelines to be developed by the organs of the Authority. The standards will be adopted by the Council and will be legally binding on Contractors and the Authority, whereas the guidelines will be issued by the Legal and Technical Commission or the Secretary-General and will be recommendatory in nature.
2. Stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the process decided upon by the Commission for the development of the standards and guidelines ([ISBA/25/C/19/Add.1](#)).
3. The Legal and Technical Commission will consider the comments received through stakeholder consultation during its current session.
4. The drafts include a cover page containing background and contextual information on the approach taken by the Legal and Technical Commission in developing each standard and guidelines. Please note that stakeholder comments are not sought on this cover note.
5. Issues of format and consistency across the standards and guidelines will be reviewed by the secretariat and the Legal and Technical Commission once the content of the various standards and guidelines is finalized following stakeholder consultation.

II. Submitting Comments

6. To ensure that your comments are given due consideration, please send them by e-mail to ola@isa.org.jm, at your earliest convenience but **no later than the date announced on the ISA website for the relevant draft standards and guidelines.**
7. When submitting comments, please adhere to the following guidance as much as possible:
 - a. Please provide all comments in writing and in an MS Word .doc or .docx format using the table provided below.
 - b. The table format allows for an unlimited number of comments to be added. To add more comments, you may add more rows.

- c. Please provide full contact information for the individual/Government/organization submitting the comments.
 - d. Please avoid commenting on issues related to format, grammar, spelling or punctuation, unless it affects the overall meaning of the text, as the document will be formatted and edited when the final draft is prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission.
 - e. To facilitate the revision process please be as specific as possible in your comments. In areas where you feel additional or alternative text or information is required, please suggest what this text may look like or what information should be included.
 - f. Text may be copied from the draft into the table if stakeholders wish to use "track changes" in editing text (this is encouraged to ensure accuracy and avoid numbering errors).
 - g. If you refer to additional sources of information, please include these with your comments when possible or provide a complete reference or hyperlink.
 - h. All review comments will be posted on the ISA website, unless otherwise requested by the submitting entity.
8. Should you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact ola@isa.org.jm.

III. Template for Comments

- 9. Please use the review template below when providing comments.
- 10. Line and page numbers have been provided in the drafts. Please use these as a reference as illustrated in the table below.

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

<i>Document reviewed</i>	
Title of the draft being reviewed:	Draft Guidelines for the preparation of environmental management and monitoring plans
<i>Contact information</i>	
Surname:	Charlet
Given Name:	Francois
Government (if applicable):	
Organization (if applicable):	Global Sea Mineral Resources nv (GSR)
Country:	Belgium

E-mail:	Charlet.francois@deme-group.com	
General Comments		
GSR commends the LTC on the progress it has made with these guidelines and appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback.		
A key concern is around adaptive management, which needs a more precise definition and clear limits and rules. (further comments provided below)		
Specific Comments		
Page	Line	Comment
1	59	Cumulative effects should include not just other mining impacts but also other human impacts to the ocean including fishing, underwater cables, shipping, etc.
1	62	GSR suggests that, in addition to measuring the effectiveness of mitigation measures, the EMMP should also outline how the effects of mining will be monitored. This may seem obvious/inherently included, but it may be worth spelling it out to ensure there is no room for misinterpretation.
3	154	Should the wording “Approval of” be about being part of an application instead? i.e., “... as part of the application of a Plan of Work for Exploitation”
4-5	212-225	GSR is supportive of an adaptive management approach however for adaptive management to be used effectively, monitoring thresholds for action need to be clearly defined <i>a priori</i> and requirements for operator responses to threshold exceedance also need to be clearly defined. Thresholds and exceedance response can be modified by mutual consent as more knowledge becomes available, but this principle needs to be included in the definition of the term.
7	308	Typo: “includes” should be “include”
7	310-315	GSR agrees with the language used to explain Validation Monitoring. i.e., if validation monitoring demonstrates predictions are correct, uncertainty will have been reduced and it is normal, once the validation monitoring stage is complete, for the intensity of sampling to decrease.
9	414	Note: Appendix A, referenced here, does not appear to have been provided with this guideline
10	429	The continuous environmental monitoring of operation will represent very large volumes of data to store and manage. A detailed data management system will be crucial for contractors, but also for the ISA if all data must be submitted and aligned between contractors. As such, the guideline for EMMP should probably also detail the reporting format of data as such (it is not only about performance).
10	440	While GSR fully supports continuous improvement, it is essential in such an emerging industry, a framework for revision by the Authority should be defined, to avoid continuous changes of the rules the contractors have based their activities on.

10	455	Further thought may be required with respect to what these trigger values relate to. E.g. should they only relate to parameters that can be assessed in real time and/or quickly so that corrective actions can be taken as soon as possible?
11	511	A definition of “substantive adjustment” would be helpful here.
15	633	Is the Competent Person selected by the Authority or by the contractor?
16	675-679	Presumably actual reporting requirements would be included in the conditions of the contract (?)
22		Appendix A is currently blank
<i>Additional rows can be added to this table by selecting “Table” followed by “insert” and “rows below”</i>		

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