



Council

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Kingston, 6–10 December 2021*

Agenda item 13

**Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on
the work of the Commission at its twenty-sixth session**

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the review of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission pursuant to article 165, paragraph 2 (e), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,¹

Taking into account also the recommendations of the Commission on the review of the environment management plan, including on the need to enhance the effectiveness of the network of areas of particular environmental interest,²

Recalling article 145 of the Convention, which requires that necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with the Convention with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from such activities,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 162 of the Convention, the Council has the power to establish the specific policies to be pursued by the Authority on any question or matter within the competence of the Authority,

Recalling further that the review and implementation of regional environmental management plans is a strategic priority for the Authority, as reflected and implemented within the context of the strategic plan³ and the high-level action plan⁴ of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 and the action plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable

* New dates of the in-person meetings originally scheduled for July 2020 and then July 2021.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

² [ISBA/26/C/43](#).

³ [ISBA/24/A/10](#).

⁴ [ISBA/25/A/15](#) and [ISBA/25/A/15/Corr.1](#).



Development,⁵ which were adopted by the Assembly in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively,

Considering that the review of the implementation of a comprehensive environmental management plan at the regional level is one of the measures appropriate and necessary to ensure effective protection of the marine environment of that part of the Area known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area and that such a plan should include provision for the establishment of a representative network of areas of particular environmental interest,

Recognizing the rights under the Convention and the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,⁶

Recognizing also the rights of those entities that presently hold contracts with the Authority for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone pursuant to the Convention, the Agreement and the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area,⁷ in particular their security of tenure over areas allocated for exploration, in accordance with their contracts,

Recognizing further that a range of human activities occurring, or potentially occurring, in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone should be managed according to international law,

Recognizing that the review is the result of comprehensive and robust scientific processes,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the review of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone as contained in document [ISBA/26/C/43](#);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, and approves the designation of four additional areas of particular environmental interest to enhance the effectiveness of the network of areas of particular environmental interest, as described in the annex to this decision;

3. *Notes* that the progress in the implementation of the plan will continue to be monitored and reviewed by the Commission so that its implementation may be further enhanced as more scientific, technical and environmental baseline and resource assessment data are supplied by contractors and other interested bodies;

4. *Encourages* further dialogue with all stakeholders to ensure complementarity with regard to the 13 areas of particular environmental interest, the precise location of which may be reviewed;

5. *Decides* to apply this decision in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement, the Regulations and the terms of the contracts on exploration for polymetallic nodules issued in respect of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and to evaluate and review, where appropriate, the environmental management plan in the light of future changes to the regulatory framework determining the plan;

6. *Encourages* the conduct of marine scientific research, including in the areas of particular environmental interest, in accordance with article 143 of the

⁵ [ISBA/26/A/4](#).

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364

⁷ [ISBA/19/A/9](#), [ISBA/19/A/12](#) and [ISBA/20/A/9](#).

Convention, and the dissemination of the results of such research through the Authority;

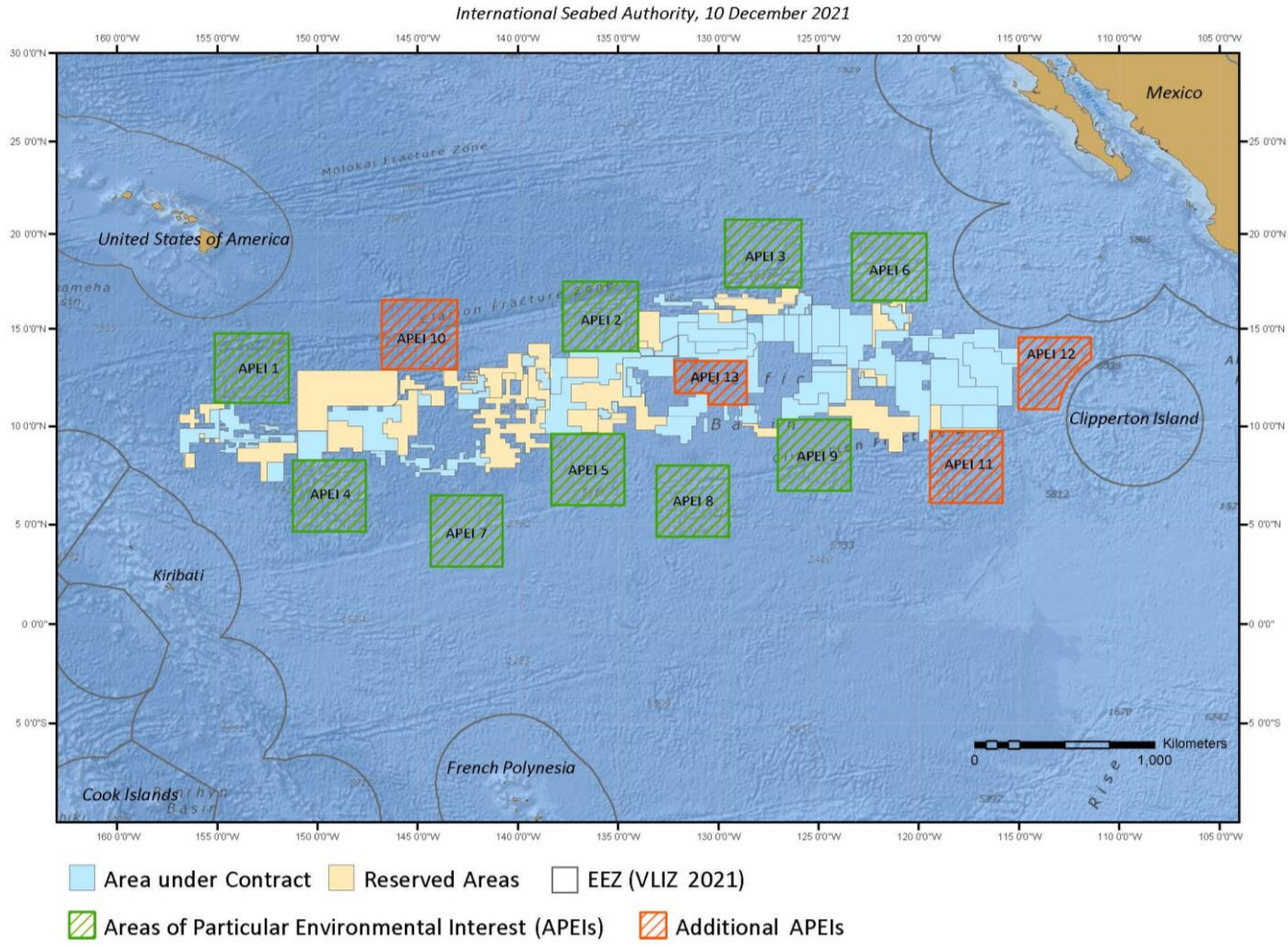
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to continue to take steps to facilitate the capacity development for marine scientific research in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, including in the areas of particular environmental interest, for the benefit of developing States and technologically less-developed States, including through the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and within the framework of the action plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to communicate this decision as widely as possible, including to members of the Authority, observers of the Authority, contractors and relevant international organizations;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, in particular focusing on the further actions identified in table 1 of the report and the recommendation of the Commission.

*274th meeting
10 December 2021*

Exploration areas, areas reserved for the Authority and areas of particular environmental interest in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone



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Turning-point coordinates of the four additional areas of particular environmental interest

<i>No. of area of particular environmental interest</i>	<i>Turning point</i>	<i>Longitude (W)</i>	<i>Latitude (N)</i>
10	1	-143.02903562	16.51540244
	2	-143.03569098	12.90819823
	3	-146.76934701	12.92150894
	4	-146.76934701	16.51540244
11	1	-119.41500000	9.75000000
	2	-115.82173886	9.75000000
	3	-115.82173886	6.09797525
	4	-119.41500000	6.09797525
12	1	-115.00000000	14.55973692
	2	-111.40673887	14.55973692
	3	-111.40673887	13.42341576
	4	-111.69237261	13.22552848
	5	-111.70006678	13.22006580
	6	-111.70764414	13.21444879
	7	-111.71510144	13.20867985
	8	-111.72243554	13.20276144
	9	-111.72805527	13.19805427
	10	-111.73359705	13.19325935
	11	-111.73905948	13.18837788
	12	-111.74444113	13.18341115
	13	-111.74529520	13.18261015
	14	-111.75433034	13.17389966
	15	-112.17153125	12.75946259
	16	-112.17803583	12.75285234
	17	-112.18440180	12.74611347
	18	-112.19062652	12.73924880
	19	-112.19670745	12.73226116
	20	-112.19870198	12.72985098
	21	-112.19937819	12.72904101

<i>No. of area of particular environmental interest</i>	<i>Turning point</i>	<i>Longitude (W)</i>	<i>Latitude (N)</i>
	22	-112.20067299	12.72751926
	23	-112.20352212	12.72409647
	24	-112.20746902	12.71937727
	25	-112.21405850	12.71107310
	26	-112.22044878	12.70262037
	27	-112.22663640	12.69402367
	28	-112.56221479	12.21499694
	29	-112.56735339	12.20748540
	30	-112.56935049	12.20438235
	31	-112.57231324	12.19985801
	32	-112.57430346	12.19675077
	33	-112.57717256	12.19217014
	34	-112.57913822	12.18904695
	35	-112.58380799	12.18124520
	36	-112.58911951	12.17190996
	37	-112.59420459	12.16245356
	38	-112.59906042	12.15288130
	39	-112.60368428	12.14319857
	40	-112.84799418	11.61434722
	41	-112.85165849	11.60618591
	42	-112.85515842	11.59795480
	43	-112.85849262	11.58965713
	44	-112.86165982	11.58129613
	45	-112.86528725	11.57104003
	46	-112.86866345	11.56070089
	47	-112.87178648	11.55028471
	48	-112.87465458	11.53979750
	49	-113.02085257	10.97740552
	50	-113.02298127	10.96885631
	51	-113.02494094	10.96026774
	52	-113.02673084	10.95164307

<i>No. of area of particular environmental interest</i>	<i>Turning point</i>	<i>Longitude (W)</i>	<i>Latitude (N)</i>
	53	-113.02835032	10.94298557
	54	-113.03013487	10.93211755
	55	-113.03165091	10.92120978
	56	-113.03289760	10.91026875
	57	-113.03387420	10.89930094
	58	-113.03740133	10.85321114
	59	-115.00000000	10.85321114
	60	-115.00000000	14.55973692
13	1	-128.58333300	13.33333300
	2	-128.58333300	11.08330000
	3	-130.50000000	11.08330000
	4	-130.50000000	11.66667552
	5	-132.17659413	11.66666700
	6	-132.17659414	13.33333300
