

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Meeting of the Council of the Twenty-Second Session of the International Seabed Authority

Friday 16 July 2016

Agenda item 10

Second Intervention (close of the Friday afternoon session)

We appreciate the work of the LTC and there is much that we could comment on in the LTC Chair's very comprehensive report – the exploitation regulations, the stakeholder strategy, the LTC's observation in paragraph 40 of the need to identify a better working methodology to the drafting of the exploitation regulations, and the detailed and rather ambitious workplan outlined in Annex II of the LTC Chair's report. We support the interventions of our colleagues from IUCN, Greenpeace, & WWF. But I'll confine my comments to part VIII of the Chair's report on the summary of the majority opinion of the LTC in regard to the consultant's report on the Article 154 review. We appreciated hearing the concerns of the LTC members in the open meeting of the LTC earlier this week and the majority view as reflected in the Chair's report. That said, we believe that the 154 review is a critically important opportunity for the ISA to improve its working methods to the benefit of all of its organs, including the LTC. We believe many of the recommendations of the report in question are worth deliberation and debate and we would hope that serious consideration can be given to the Art 154 review when this is considered by the Assembly next week. For example, we are very supportive of recommendations to enhance the capacity of the ISA to evaluate and review environmental information, the quality of environmental baseline information, environmental impact assessments, and strategic environment management plans by for example establishing an environmental committee as a subsidiary body of one or more of the organs of the ISA. We appreciate the hard work of the LTC and don't see such a recommendation as a criticism of the LTC; to the contrary we see recommendations of this nature as a means of enhancing the capacity of the LTC as well as other bodies in the ISA to do their work more effectively. Finally, I meant to say in my previous intervention that we support the comments of Australian delegation regarding the review of the CCZ Environment Management Plan.