

Stakeholder consultation on the draft regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits

Background Note

I. Background

1. Under Article 145 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is required to take necessary measures in accordance with the Convention with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities. In this connection, in its past decisions, the Council of the ISA has encouraged the secretariat and the Legal and Technical Commission (the “Commission”) to make progress in the development of regional environmental management plans (REMPs) in priority areas, in particular where there are currently exploration contracts.

2. The ISA process for the development of the REMP for the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge started with the organization of an expert workshop in Szczecin, Poland in 2018, which was followed by an additional expert workshop in Évora, Portugal, in 2019 and a virtual workshop in 2020. To support workshop deliberations, comprehensive sets of scientific information and data were compiled and synthesized in the Data Report and Regional Environmental Assessment¹.

3. In May 2021, the Commission tasked a working group with drafting the REMP for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The working group worked inter-sessionally during May 2021 and March 2022 to prepare the draft REMP document, drawing on the outcomes from previous workshops particularly the virtual workshop² in 2020.

4. During its meeting in March 2022, the Commission discussed the draft REMP submitted by the working group. The Commission decided to release the draft REMP for stakeholder consultation, and will consider the comments received through stakeholder consultation during its next meeting.

6. When preparing their comments, stakeholders are invited to consider the background as summarized above, in particular the scientific basis, tools and approaches, which had been developed through the expert workshop process and documented in the workshop reports and background reports.

II. Submission of Comments

7. To ensure that your comments are given due consideration, please send them by e-mail to oeommr-secretariat@isa.org.jm, at your earliest convenience but no later than the date announced on the ISA website.

8. When submitting comments, please adhere to the following guidance as much as possible:

¹ Reports of these workshops, as well as background reports, are available on ISA website <https://www.isa.org.jm/event/workshop-rem-p-area-northern-mid-atlantic-ridge>

² The results of the virtual workshop are summarized in https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Final_Draft_workshop_report-nMAR_REMP.pdf

- a. The first two pages of this document contain background information. Please note that stakeholder comments are not sought on the first two pages of this document.
 - b. Please provide all comments in writing and in an MS Word .doc or .docx format using the table provided below.
 - c. The table format allows for an unlimited number of comments to be added. To add more comments, you may add more rows.
 - d. Please provide full contact information for the individual/Government/organization submitting the comments.
 - e. 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 Commission.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Text may be copied from the draft REMP into the table if stakeholders wish to use "track changes" in editing text (this is encouraged to ensure accuracy and avoid numbering errors).
 - h. If you refer to additional sources of information, please include these with your comments when possible or provide a complete reference or hyperlink.
 - i. All review comments will be posted on the ISA website, unless otherwise requested by the submitting entity.
9. Should you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm.

Template for the review of the draft regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits

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

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

Contact Information		
Surname		
Given name		
Government (if applicable)		
Organization (if applicable)		
Country		
Email		
General Comments		
<p>When preparing the general comments, stakeholders are invited to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The structure and layout of the draft REMP. 2) The level of detail of the draft REMP, while avoiding being too prescriptive. 3) The goals and objectives in the draft REMP in providing for long-term, effective protection of the marine environment in the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. 4) The management measures and their ability to achieve the goals and objectives in the draft REMP. 		
Specific Comments		
Page	Line	Comment

Draft regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits

Introduction and background

1. In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “Convention”) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, the International Seabed Authority is the organization through which, the States parties to the Convention administer the mineral resources of the International Seabed Area (the “Area”) and control and organize current exploration and future mining activities for the benefit of humankind as a whole. At the core of ISA’s mandate lies its duty to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area. Article 145 of the Convention requires ISA to adopt appropriate rules, regulations and procedures for, *inter alia*, the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area, and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

2. To this end, Article 165 of the Convention assigns the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) of ISA the responsibility to make recommendations to the Council on the protection of the marine environment, with respect to relevant rules, regulations and procedures, as well as a monitoring programme on the risks and effects on the marine environment resulting from activities in the Area. In addition, the LTC is also responsible for keeping under review the rules, regulations and procedures on activities in the Area.

3. Three sets of exploration regulations have been adopted by ISA on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules (PMN), polymetallic sulphides (PMS), and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (CMC)³, which are supplemented by a series of recommendations issued by the LTC⁴. Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area are presently under consideration by the Council, which will be supplemented by a set of standards and guidelines to support the implementation of such regulations.⁵

4. In pursuance of the mandate under Article 145 of the Convention, the Council, during its seventeenth session in 2012, approved, in its decision ISBA/18/C/22, an Environmental Management Plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), on the basis of the recommendation of the LTC. Among other elements, the environmental management plan established objectives and priority actions at various levels, as well as a mechanism for review. In line with these provisions, the LTC reviewed progress in the implementation of the environmental management plan in 2016 and 2021, and identified further actions to advance the goals and objectives of the plan⁶. On the basis of the recommendation of the LTC, the Council in 2021 adopted a decision relating to the review of the Environmental Management Plan for the CCZ, as contained in ISBA/26/C/58.

5. Building on the experience of the Environmental Management Plan for the CCZ and ISA workshops held for other regions, the development of regional environmental management plans (REMPs) became an essential element of the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 adopted by the Assembly in 2018 (ISBA/24/A/10) and, subsequently, a central part of the high-level action plan adopted by the Assembly in 2019 (ISBA/25/A/15, annex II). Strategic Direction 3.2 of the strategic plan calls for efforts to “*develop, implement and keep under review regional environmental assessments and management plans for all mineral provinces in the Area where exploration or exploitation is taking place to ensure sufficient protection of the marine environment as required by, inter alia, Article 145 and Part XII of the Convention*”. Likewise, in 2020, the Assembly adopted the Action Plan of the Authority in support of the United Nations

³ See ISBA/19/C/17, ISBA/16/A/12 Rev. 1 and ISBA/18/A/11

⁴ See <https://www.isa.org.jm/mining-code/recommendations>

⁵ See <https://www.isa.org.jm/mining-code/standards-and-guidelines>

⁶ See ISBA/26/C/43

46 Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (ISBA/26/A/4), which identifies a number
47 of expected outputs that highlight the role of scientific approaches to developing REMPs.

48 6. At its twenty-fourth session, in March 2018, the Council took note of a strategy proposed
49 by the Secretary-General for the development of REMPs for key provinces where exploration
50 activities under contracts are carried out. The Council agreed with the priority areas that had been
51 identified, including the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR). The Council, at its twenty-fifth session in
52 2019, took note of a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategy
53 (ISBA/25/C/13), including a programme of work to develop those plans through a series of expert
54 workshops.

55 7. To support the organization of these workshops, the ISA secretariat prepared a guidance
56 document to facilitate the development of REMPs. As requested by the Council in its Decision
57 ISBA/26/C/10, this guidance document is being further developed by the LTC with a view to
58 recommending to the Council a standardized approach for the development of regional
59 environmental management plans, including a template with indicative elements. The guidance
60 document recalled that both contractors and sponsoring States “*undertake [...] to comply with [...]*
61 *the decisions of relevant organs of the Authority*”⁷ and referred, in this regard, to the decisions
62 concerning REMPs.

63 8. As part of the implementation of this strategy, ISA organized two expert workshops in
64 Szczecin, Poland in 2018 and Evora, Portugal in 2019, as well as a virtual expert workshop in
65 2020, in support of the development of a REMP by the LTC for the Area of the northern MAR.

66 9. The development and implementation of REMPs have become an integral part of the work
67 of ISA on the protection of the marine environment and have the potential to contribute to the
68 effective conservation and management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national
69 jurisdiction. REMPs also have the potential to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable
70 Development Goal 14 (Life below water) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
71 namely to “*conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable*
72 *development*”.

73 10. This REMP contains references to measures applicable to the exploitation phase for which
74 the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area are still under negotiation,
75 therefore, these measures will need to be aligned once the draft regulations become adopted.

76 **Guiding principles**

77 11. The development and implementation of REMPs in the Area are guided by the following
78 overarching principles:

79 a) **Common heritage of mankind.** The Area and its resources are the common heritage of
80 humankind. All rights to the resources of the Area are vested in humankind as a whole on whose
81 behalf the Authority shall act;

82 b) **Precautionary approach.** Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and
83 Development specifies that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the
84 environment, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-
85 effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;

86 c) **Transparency.** The Authority shall enable public participation in environmental decision-
87 making procedures in line with strategic direction 9 of the Strategic Plan of ISA for the period
88 2019-2023⁸ ;

89 d) The application of an **ecosystem approach**; and

90 e) Incorporate the **best available scientific evidence** into decision-making processes.

⁷ 3 Annex IV, Section 13.2 (b) in each set of the Authority’s regulations on prospecting and exploration.

⁸ See ISBA/24/A/10.

91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122

Overarching goals

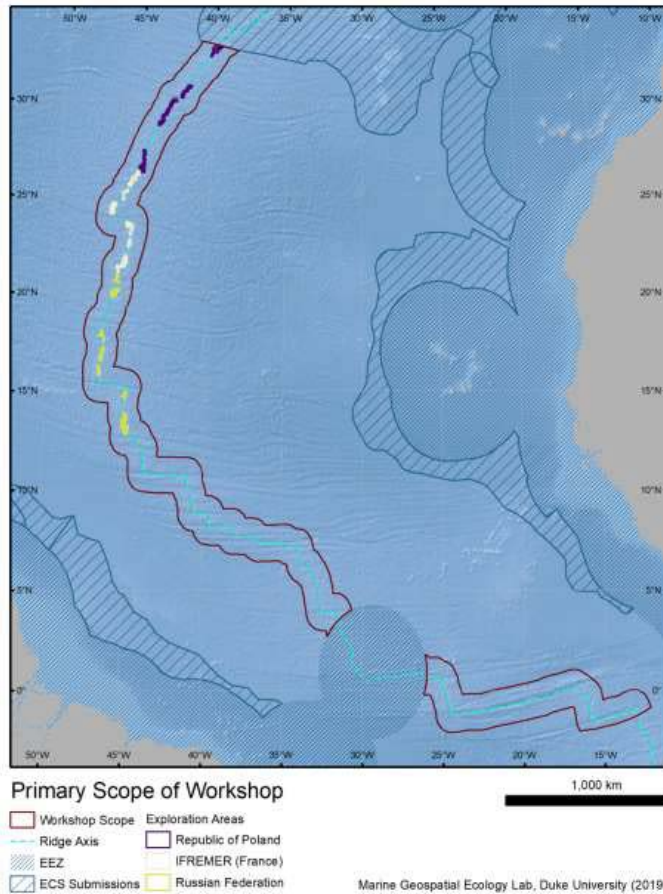
12. REMPs in the Area are developed to achieve the following overarching goals:
- a) Sustainably manage the Area across the region;
 - b) Ensure the protection and preservation of the marine environment;
 - c) Maintain regional biodiversity and ecosystem structure, function and processes across the region;
 - d) Enable the conservation of representative habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystems;
 - e) Ensure environmental sustainability and functionality during and after exploitation activities;
 - f) Ensure that activities are undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner in the Area;
 - g) Promote access to, and sharing of, data and information relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment in the Area, including oceanographic and environmental baseline studies;
 - h) Facilitate cooperative research to better understand the marine environment to inform the implementation of this plan, including through the participation of developing countries and multilateral exchange of views on environmental management issues; and
 - i) Encourage cooperation between contractors, sponsoring States and other stakeholders in the region.

Purpose of the REMP

13. The purpose of this REMP is to set in place conservation and management measures and tools across the region in the Area of the northern MAR to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area, in accordance with Article 145 of the Convention and the strategic plan of the Authority. To this end, this REMP establishes the principles, goals and objectives and identifies area-based and other management measures, as well as an implementation strategy.

Geographic scope of the REMP

14. The MAR is an elevated area of seafloor that runs roughly north-south through the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. This REMP applies to the Area of the northern MAR. The geographical area covered under this plan extends 100km on each side of the ridge axis to ensure complete coverage of the ridge system, including its axis and shoulders. The geographical limits of the area covered under this REMP are represented in Figure 1.



124

125

Figure 1. Geographic scope of the REMP for the Area of the northern MAR.

126

Environmental and geological setting and the exploration areas for PMS deposits

127

15. Comprehensive sets of scientific data and information on the geology, oceanography and biological communities of the MAR have been compiled and synthesized in the Data Report and Regional Environmental Assessment⁹, as inputs to the preparation of this REMP. Drawing on these scientific compilations, the environmental characteristics of the MAR are summarized in this section.

132

16. The MAR covers not only the rocky ridge, but also rift valleys, fracture zones, seamounts, submarine volcanoes, hydrothermal vents, sedimented slopes, sedimented plains and pelagic oceanic complexes. The ridge itself has an active spreading centre, with a pronounced central rift valley, whilst the flanks of the MAR are made up of mainly (> 95 %) gentle slopes and discontinuous flat plains, which are largely sedimented. The flat plains are generally aligned parallel to the axis of the ridge. Steep (gradients >5 % and mainly hard substrate) slopes comprise only about 5 % of the MAR area although in the context of a largely sedimented Atlantic Ocean basin, the MAR provides a large proportion of hard substrata habitat.

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

17. The MAR is a slow spreading ridge system. The ridge axis is broken into numerous segments by fracture zones which can offset the ridge by hundreds of metres to hundreds of kilometres. The active volcanism associated with spreading centres along the MAR has created a series of hydrothermal vent sites. The hydrothermal activity at these sites and resulting

141

142

143

⁹ <https://www.isa.org.jm/event/workshop-regional-environmental-plan-area-northern-mid-atlantic-ridge#BckDocs>

144 precipitation of sulphide minerals has formed hard substrate sulphide habitat, and in some places,
145 metal-rich sediments. In some locations, sulphide habitat remains hydrothermally active, whilst
146 in other locations, hydrothermal activity has ceased rendering the vents hydrothermally inactive.

147 18. The large-scale circulation of the North Atlantic consists of largely wind-driven, surface-
148 intensified gyre circulations interacting with a significant density-driven meridional overturning
149 component in which warm surface waters are drawn to high latitudes where they are transformed
150 and returned as dense, deep waters. It is the open connection to the Nordic Seas and the Arctic
151 that permits this strong overturning circulation, mediated by the relatively shallow ridge between
152 Greenland and Scotland which must be traversed by newly formed deep waters.

153 19. The complex hydrographic setting around the MAR in general and the presence of the
154 ridge itself leads to enhanced vertical mixing and turbulence that results in areas of increased
155 ocean productivity. The presence of the northern MAR disrupts the ocean circulation creating
156 regions of high biomass that may arise from topographic influences on water circulation,
157 bathymetrically induced fronts, and upwelling nutrient-rich deep water. As a result of these factors,
158 the MAR concentrates biomass over its flanks and summits creating mid ocean regions of high
159 productivity.¹⁰

160 20. The combined surface and mid-water environment (surface to 50m above seafloor) is a
161 vast environment spanning thousands of meters' water depth and host diverse fauna. The pelagic
162 environment exhibits large gradients in light, heat, and availability of surface-derived food, all of
163 which are in general negatively correlated with depth. However, compared with the adjacent
164 abyssal and pelagic environments, the presence of the MAR has the effect of greatly concentrating
165 biomass.

166 21. The benthic environment of the northern MAR is a complex patchwork of habitats
167 spanning thousands of metres depth range and encompassing varied seabed geomorphological
168 types.¹¹ The MAR exhibits a high heterogeneity of habitats. The diverse range of benthic habitats
169 can be broadly grouped into four types: (i) hydrothermal hard substrata habitat (subdivided into
170 hydrothermally active and inactive sulphide habitat); (ii) exposed non-sulphide hard substrate
171 (such as basalt); (iii) soft sediment (including pelagic sediment and hydrothermally active
172 sediment); and (iv) the water column 50m above the seafloor (benthopelagic). These deep-sea
173 benthic habitats are dynamically connected over a range of spatial scales through dispersal
174 processes and interactions with the pelagic ecosystem. Distinguishing between active and inactive
175 sulphide habitat can be challenging, but is essential, because active and inactive habitats support
176 very different biological communities, with potentially different resilience and recovery potential.

177 22. In the northern MAR, distribution of the known twenty two sites of PMS deposits is
178 heterogeneous and distances between sites vary considerably (from 10 to more than 100 km). It
179 was estimated all known sites represent 20-30% of predicted number of undiscovered sites.¹²
180 Further advancement in the resource evaluation of the sulphide areas may result in discovery of
181 more vent sites.

182 23. The environmental setting of the MAR influences the development of this REMP in a
183 number of ways. The complex geomorphology and high heterogeneity of habitats make it
184 challenging to identify a representative network of sites or areas that can capture the full range of
185 biodiversity and environmental gradients across the region. Distinct habitats and communities,
186 such as active hydrothermal vent systems, occur at a much finer spatial scale, compared to abyssal
187 plain and other deep-sea environments. Several active vent systems are present within existing

¹⁰ Priede et al., 2013 Does Presence of a Mid-Ocean Ridge Enhance Biomass and Biodiversity? PLOS one 8(5): e61550

¹¹ Harris PT, Macmillan-Lawler M, Rupp J & Baker EK (2014) Geomorphology of the oceans. Marine Geology, 352: 4 – 24.

¹² Beaulieu et al., 2015. Where are the undiscovered hydrothermal vents on oceanic spreading ridges? Deep Sea Research PtII, 121, DOI: [10.1016/j.dsr2.2015.05.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2015.05.001)

188 contract areas for exploration. As such, the goals, objectives and management measures developed
189 under this REMP were developed to reflect these regional characteristics.

190 24. As of July 2021, three contracts have been granted by ISA for exploration of polymetallic
191 sulphides in the Area of the northern MAR. Exploration contracts last for up to 15 years. One of
192 the obligations of these three contractors is to relinquish parts of their exploration area. At the end
193 of the relinquishment process, their exploration areas shall not exceed 2,500 km². All relinquished
194 areas revert to the international seabed Area.

195 25. It should be noted that PMS deposits differ from PMN and CMC deposits. This applies to
196 the more complex geological and geomorphological setting, the presence of specific
197 physicochemical conditions and biocenoses associated with hydrothermal vents, as well as to the
198 limited surface extent of PMS deposits on the ocean floor. The surface area of known PMS
199 deposits is measured at a scale of a few hundreds of meters. In comparison, the surface area is
200 dozens of times larger for CMC deposits, and hundreds and thousands of times larger for PMN
201 deposits.¹³ The large difference in the surface extent of different mineral deposits likely result in
202 different scales of the potential environmental impacts from exploitation activities in different
203 mineral provinces, and should be taken into consideration in regional environmental planning and
204 management.

205 **Region-specific goals and objectives**

206 **I. Region-specific goals**

207 26. This REMP aims to achieve the following environmental goals at the regional scale for
208 the northern MAR:

- 209 a) Prevent habitat loss to maintain ecosystem viability;
- 210 b) Ensure connectivity is maintained amongst populations;
- 211 c) Maintain representativity of habitats at the regional scale;
- 212 d) Maintain migratory corridors;
- 213 e) Maintain feeding and breeding grounds;
- 214 f) Maintain ecosystem function (both benthic and pelagic); and
- 215 g) Ensure exploitation does not exceed cumulative impacts thresholds.

216 **II. Operational objectives**

217 **A. Operational objectives for the area covered under this REMP**

218 27. The following operational objectives apply to the geographical scope of this REMP (see
219 Figure 1):

- 220 a) Determine the types and distribution of habitats (including through modeling) to assess
221 representativity at the regional scale;
- 222 b) Determine patterns of connectivity between populations of species important for
223 maintaining ecosystem function and processes;
- 224 c) Identify and designate, where appropriate, Areas and Sites in Need of Protection and
225 establish processes for the identification and designation of such sites;
- 226 d) Monitor and assess impacts from activities in the Area;

¹³ Petersen S. et al (2016) News from the seabed – geological characteristics and resource potential of deep-sea mineral resources. *Marine Policy* 70: 175-187.

- 227 e) Develop scientific methodologies for understanding and assessing cumulative
 228 environmental impacts in the Area, through collaboration with other competent regional and
 229 international organizations and scientific communities, where feasible;
- 230 f) Identify and map corridors of migratory species such as marine mammals and turtles;
- 231 g) Identify feeding and breeding grounds for key species such as marine mammals and large
 232 nekton;
- 233 h) Compile, analyze and synthesize data and information, in collaboration with different
 234 contractors and the scientific community regarding the benthic and pelagic ecosystems as well as
 235 an food web and energy pathways, and thereby enhancing the understanding of ecosystem
 236 structure and functioning at a regional level;
- 237 i) Assess the distribution of habitats and model potential responses to impact from climate
 238 change and human activities that would require assessment or reassessment of any future area-
 239 based management tools(ABMTs) to be established under this REMP;
- 240 j) Establish a process for periodically updating environmental baseline data for the region;
- 241 k) Update regional environmental assessments, as outlined in the Strategic Plan of the
 242 International Seabed Authority for the period 2019–2023¹⁴, when appropriate as new scientific
 243 data and information are made available; and
- 244 l) Promote the development of mining technologies that can help effectively address the
 245 potential environmental risks to the MAR systems, that may be posed by exploitation of
 246 polymetallic sulphides.

247

248 **B. Operational objectives for contract areas**

249 28. The following operational objectives are related to contract areas as well as the regional
 250 scale:

- 251 a) Avoid harmful environmental impacts on active vent sites with significant megafauna
 252 communities, including loss of vent communities in areas around a potential mine site.
- 253 b) Ensure that sustainability is not compromised due to harmful environmental impacts on
 254 vulnerable/sensitive habitats and communities, including coral gardens and sponge aggregations
 255 in the contract area and surrounding areas;
- 256 c) Minimize harmful environmental impacts on important species for the maintenance of
 257 ecosystem functioning and integrity; and
- 258 d) Manage harmful environmental impacts to ecologically important sediment systems.

259 **Management measures**

260 **I. Overall consideration**

261 29. This REMP recognizes that contractors have security of tenure over contract areas, and
 262 any management measures prescribed in the context of this plan will need to take this into account.
 263 It will be particularly important to ensure that the implementation of spatial management measures
 264 does not interfere with the implementation of environmental baseline studies and monitoring
 265 programmes by contractors. Other exploration activities, including large-scale sampling, testing
 266 of mining components and test mining require a prior Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 267 to be conducted, in accordance with the recommendations of the LTC.¹⁵ Management measures

¹⁴ See ISBA/24/A/10

¹⁵ ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1

268 contained in this REMP should complement the implementation of those activities relating to
269 environmental baseline studies and monitoring.

270 30. Contractors are encouraged to conduct environmental surveys outside their contract areas,
271 in cooperation with the scientific community and in particular those from developing countries.

272 31. This REMP does not include ABMTs identified through the application of network criteria
273 such as representativity and connectivity, based on a regional analysis. It is noted that additional
274 expert discussion led by the LTC will be needed in the future on the application of the network
275 criteria.

276 32. It is noted that thresholds are needed for describing the occurrence of vulnerable ecosystem
277 features in the application of the criteria for ABMTs, and for evaluating and controlling the
278 impacts of mining activities. As such thresholds would be useful for consistent implementation of
279 both area-based and non-spatial management measures. These thresholds may need to be adaptive,
280 and likely change as new data and information are collected on the impacts of mining activities
281 and new knowledge of habitat and species responses becomes available. Periodic updates on
282 appropriate parameters and thresholds will be also needed.

283 **II. Area-based management measures**

284 **A. Areas in Need of Protection (AINPs)**

285 33. Areas in need of protection (AINPs) are large-scale areas of ecological importance due to
286 their uniqueness and/or biodiversity. They are described using, in the context of ISA, the scientific
287 criteria outlined in Annex 4.

288 34. AINPs aim to protect regional-scale ecosystem features, which are important in terms of
289 basin-scale water mass exchange, biogeographical zonation and transitions, connectivity and
290 ecosystem function. Because of their large areal extent and up to abyssal depths, they cover
291 multiple biogeographical provinces, habitats and ecological gradients.

292 35. This REMP identifies three AINPs (Kane Fracture Zone, Vema Fracture Zone, and
293 Romanche Fracture Zone System), as listed in Annex 1.

294 36. In these three AINPs, the following management measures will be applied:

295 a) They will be protected from direct or indirect impacts from exploitation of mineral
296 resources in the Area;

297 b) Each of them will be protected as an integrated system;

298 c) For the management of AINPs, the LTC should develop a zoning scheme, where
299 applicable. For example: (i) a core zone of full protection, (ii) a buffer zone of sufficient size to
300 provide protection from indirect effects, (iii) and possibly other zones where activities compatible
301 to the management purpose of AINPs can be allowed, when scientific information on the spatial
302 scale of transportation of fine particles from mining plumes becomes available;

303 d) ISA secretariat should promote and facilitate collaborative monitoring¹⁶ and scientific
304 research efforts in the AINPs, within the context of ISA's mandate on marine scientific research,
305 in particular the ISA Action Plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
306 Development. ISA secretariat should also look for opportunities for capacity-building of nationals
307 from developing States within these monitoring and research programmes.

308 **B. Sites in need of protection (SINPs)**

309 37. SINPs are fine-scale sites, where vulnerable marine ecosystems have been identified. They
310 are described on an individual basis, using, the scientific criteria provided in Annex 4.

¹⁶ Monitoring referred to in this paragraph describes the collection and analysis of environmental data for understanding the marine environment at a large scale and beyond the geographical boundaries of contract areas, therefore does not form part of the obligation relating to monitoring the likely effects of Contractors' programmes of activities.

311 Identification of such sites is intended with a view to managing activities that would have serious
312 harmful effects on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

313 38. This REMP identifies 11 active vent ecosystems whose existence has been confirmed by
314 direct observation as SINPs.¹⁷ These 11 SINPs are located within the existing contract areas for
315 exploration, as listed in Annex 2.

316 39. The management of SINPs should aim to maintain ecosystem functions and associated
317 features from the direct and indirect impacts of exploitation of mineral resources.

318 40. Fully respecting the rights and obligations of contractors in the existing contracts for
319 exploration, the following management measures will be applied for the 11 SINPs:

320 a) The SINPs will be protected from direct and indirect impacts of exploitation of mineral
321 resources. Contractors operating in the vicinity of a SINP will be required to provide sufficient
322 information and data that there would be no direct or indirect impacts on the SINP, including
323 negative impacts on any subsurface fluid flow to active vent features, before any proposed
324 exploitation activities can be approved;

325 b) Contractors will delineate as guided by the LTC, the specific boundaries of these SINPs
326 located within their respective contract areas, to a sufficient resolution and precision to allow for
327 management measures as outlined in paragraph 40 to be applied to protect intact habitats, species
328 and ecosystem function of each site.

329 c) A SINP may include within its boundary: (i) a core zone of full protection, (ii) a buffer
330 zone of sufficient size to provide protection from external effects, (iii) and possibly other zones
331 where activities compatible to the management purpose of SINPs can be allowed. Buffer zones
332 may be asymmetrical in extent reflecting local oceanographic and site geography;

333 d) Contractors may prepare a clear description, through detailed mapping (including physical
334 and biological features), of the different zones (core and buffer) in terms of their areal extent,
335 based on the generic guidance developed by the LTC on the zoning scheme, including
336 identification of a set of different zones and the corresponding set of allowed and/or prohibited
337 activities.

338 41. Information on newly discovered vulnerable or sensitive ecosystems will be compiled and
339 used for the future process of identifying SINPs as follows:

340 a) Contractors report the discovery of new vulnerable or sensitive ecosystems, through their
341 exploration activities, with supporting information including spatial configuration of such
342 ecosystem occurrences, and submit to ISA as part of their annual reporting process;

343 b) In addition to contractors' exploration activities, new vulnerable or sensitive ecosystems
344 can also be discovered by scientific communities, which can be communicated to the ISA
345 secretariat for review by the LTC;

346 c) The LTC can consider if further discussion or appropriate actions would be needed, based
347 on the information received; and

348 d) Newly discovered vulnerable or sensitive ecosystems should be described and assessed
349 against the criteria for SINPs, before any recommendations can be made regarding their
350 conservation status or management measures.

351 **C. Site/Areas in Need of Precaution (S/A Precaution)**

352 42. Sites/Areas in need of increased precaution (S/A-Precaution) are either fine-scale sites or
353 large-scale areas that have been predicted to have features that may give the site/area conservation
354 value. The predictions could be based on various methods, including the detection of natural
355 hydrothermal plumes (e.g., inferred hydrothermal vents) or habitat modelling (e.g., cold-water
356 octocorals). When scientific information from further research and direct observation becomes

¹⁷ See the 11 site descriptions in the Appendix 1-2 of Evora workshop report, pp. 95-115, https://www.isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Evora%20Workshop_3.pdf

357 available, ISA, through its relevant process (e.g., LTC supported by expert workshops), can assess
358 if the sites/areas can be described as sites/areas in need of protection and inform future review of
359 the REMP.

360 43. This REMP identifies twelve inferred active hydrothermal vent systems as Sites in Need
361 of Precaution, based on detection of hydrothermal plumes in the water column but not linked to
362 active vent sites, and areas of potential cold-water octocoral habitat, drawn from habitat suitability
363 models as Areas in Need of Precaution, as listed in Annex 3.

364 44. During the exploration phase, if S/A Precaution are described and meet relevant criteria,
365 supported by scientific information, they can be considered as SINPs or AINPs. If inferred or
366 predicted areas are found not to meet the criteria for SINPs or AINPs, their S/A Precaution status
367 may be removed.

368 45. In the case of inferred active vents, contractors are encouraged to apply increased survey
369 efforts to validate the existence of active vents. It is noted that habitat suitability models can be
370 useful for showing areas where new sites are potentially more likely to be discovered. However,
371 suitable habitat areas predicted by models must be validated through surveys, and encounters and
372 quantitative measurements (e.g. abundance, diversity, biomass) of indicator species need to be
373 reported.

374 46. Contractors planning to undertake exploitation activities in the S/A Precaution
375 should apply a precautionary approach until their status are assessed.

376 **III. Other management measures**

377 47. Other management measures have been identified to complement area-based management
378 measures, and to encourage sound environmental management of exploration and exploitation
379 activities in a way that is consistent with the goals and objectives of this REMP.

380 **A. At the scale of the area covered under this REMP**

381 48. The following non-spatial management measures will be applied at the regional scale (see
382 Figure 1 for the geographical scope of this REMP):

383 a) Apply a range of mitigation measures, as appropriate, to all major impacts from
384 exploitation activities;

385 b) Monitoring for potential cumulative impacts in the Area to prevent serious harm;

386 c) Develop multiple thresholds, which can enable timely detection of where impacts are
387 approaching serious harm. Determining the thresholds for what would be considered “serious
388 harm” can draw on existing frameworks and strategies and benefit from engaging with appropriate
389 experts. The following thresholds together with their indicators and methodology for measuring
390 these thresholds will be developed:

- 391 • acceptable levels of potentially toxic contaminants and particulates impacting on biota in
392 the SINPs and AINPs listed in Annex I and II;

- 393 • acceptable levels of potentially toxic contaminants in returned water;

- 394 • acceptable levels of particulate content of returned water;

- 395 • acceptable levels of noise from vessel and any noise emitted in the water column and
396 benthic environment;

- 397 • acceptable deviation from baseline information on habitats before an action is taken; and

- 398 • acceptable levels of light pollution in the pelagic and benthic environment.

399 **B. At the scale of contract areas**

400 49. This REMP will apply the following non-spatial management measures at the scale of
401 contract areas:

- 402 a) On active vent sites with significant megafauna communities, contractors should ensure
403 active mining plume management as well as monitoring of hydrothermal flows to avoid
404 interruption or disruption to hydrothermal flows upon which vent communities rely;
- 405 b) On vulnerable habitats including coral gardens, sponge aggregations, contractors will
406 monitor any of such habitats likely to be impacted by their activities, including the habitats that
407 lie in the vicinity outside their contract areas;
- 408 c) On key vulnerable/sensitive species, contractors will monitor significant communities of
409 fauna within contract areas and in surrounding areas likely to be impacted by mining activities.
- 410 d) To manage harmful environmental impacts to key sediment systems, contractors will need
411 to identify key sediment communities both within and in the areas surrounding a contract area and
412 actively manage the return-water plumes and the impact of the removal of any sediment overlying
413 the mineral resources (over burden) and its deposition to avoid serious harm to the marine
414 environment.
- 415 e) To control exploitation activity to remain within impact thresholds, contractors should
416 apply the established thresholds and where relevant identify relevant environmental thresholds,
417 e.g. for impact of particulates in plumes;
- 418 f) To ensure no increase in ambient particulate flux in the pelagic environment, contractors
419 should control the generation of plumes arising from extraction and redeposition of waste material
420 from surface processes such that they remain at or below ambient levels. The release of returned
421 water plume (particles, contaminants, and altered water chemistry) should be returned as close to
422 the sea floor as practical, noting that release in midwater can disrupt larval dispersal and gene
423 flow at all ocean depths leading to loss of connectivity or ecosystem function¹⁸;
- 424 g) Apply thresholds for the impacts of mining plume (particles and toxic contaminants) on
425 SINPs;
- 426 h) Prevent the impact of overburden removal and placement on hydrothermal vent faunas and
427 fauna of other SINPs;
- 428 i) Apply an adaptive management approach in undertaking activities in their contract area;
- 429 j) Control generation of underwater sound from surface vessel, from riser pipe pumps,
430 particularly in the Sound Fixing and Ranging (SOFAR) channel and at the seabed to avoid
431 interference with pelagic fauna communications, particularly marine mammals;
- 432 k) Control light on the seabed and from vessels that can attract birds and disrupt their behavior;
- 433 l) Apply thresholds for noise at seabed and in riser pipe pumps and for light pollution at
434 seabed and on the surface, recognizing that such thresholds may need to be periodically reviewed
435 as more information becomes available on environmental baselines and biological responses to
436 pressures;
- 437 m) Avoid the introduction of invasive species from vessels that can lead to loss of ecosystem
438 function and biodiversity;
- 439 n) Monitor direct and indirect impacts of mining, including impacts on subsurface
440 hydrological flow changes, impacts of overburden removal and on key habitats outside contract
441 areas, and potential long-term impacts on biological communities, in order to minimize such
442 impacts;
- 443 o) Undertake seabed surveys and habitat mapping of the area predicted to be impacted by the
444 mining plume;
- 445 p) Apply temporal suspension of mining operations during significant biological events (e.g.,
446 major spawning aggregations); and

¹⁸ These points were only considered to be relevant at the regional scale if multiple sites within an area undergo exploitation activities at the same time.

447 q) Develop thresholds for categorization of significant faunal communities.

448 **Implementation strategy**

449 50. In the context of implementing this REMP, the following priorities for future monitoring¹⁹
450 and research are identified:

451 *I. Monitoring at the regional scale and research to enhance a comprehensive understanding*
452 *of regional environmental baseline, and spatial and temporal variations*

453 a) Bathymetry, geophysics and regional scale mapping: Efforts may start from collating data
454 and information from different sources, including the ISA DeepData database, to develop
455 regional-scale knowledge of bathymetry and geophysics, in order to provide a regional baseline
456 and to guide future sampling efforts.

457 b) Physical and chemical oceanography: Oceanographic models can be developed at the
458 regional scale through collaboration. Contractors are encouraged to enhance sampling efforts and
459 collaborate with each other and with scientific communities to establish regional patterns of ocean
460 chemistry, currents and other oceanographic parameters.

461 c) Regional patterns of biodiversity: A practical first step may be to focus on basic matrices,
462 such as species abundance and composition of different taxa and the diversity, richness, evenness
463 of assemblages.

464 d) Population connectivity: Initial monitoring and research efforts may focus on validating
465 existing connectivity models. A standardized approach can be established using suitable indicator
466 species for regional analyses of connectivity to provide regional baselines against which changes
467 can be monitored.

468 e) Migratory connectivity of marine mammals, sea turtles, or other large animals in the
469 surface and midwater environments: Monitoring and research may focus on mapping regional
470 baselines, key habitats that serve as feeding and breeding grounds, as well as potential impacts
471 from underwater noise or plumes during exploitation activities on the suitability of migration
472 corridors.

473 f) Trophic connectivity/relationships: Monitoring and research may focus on measurements
474 at different trophic levels, such as surface primary productivity, the location of the deep-scattering
475 layer and diel vertical migrations in the mid-water column, and abundance of top predators.

476 g) Ecosystem function: Research efforts may focus on structural properties critical for
477 ecosystem function. Studies on community structure may be an essential first step in
478 understanding ecosystem function, which can be followed by experimental studies on “tipping
479 points” beyond which further loss on structural properties may impact on ecosystem function.
480 Identifying functional trait profiles can also be a useful approach for understanding ecosystem
481 function. Information on trait profiles will need to be augmented by information on trophic flows,
482 functional diversity, and redundancy of traits at the major trophic levels. Models of ecosystem
483 function and identification of proxies or indicator species should be undertaken for monitoring
484 ecosystem function.

485 h) Resilience and recovery: Monitoring and research may focus on the abundance or health
486 of indicator species and community trait profiles, in particular biological traits linked to sensitivity.
487 Small-scale disturbances or experiments can also inform models and predictions of resilience and
488 recovery.

489

¹⁹ Monitoring referred to in paragraphs 50-54 may describe the collection and analysis of environmental data for understanding the marine environment at a large scale and beyond the geographical scope of contract areas, therefore may not form part of the obligation relating to monitoring the likely effects of Contractors' programmes of activities.

490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539

II. Monitoring and research to support area-based management

a) Habitat mapping and modelling: Habitats will first need to be comprehensively defined and mapped within the region to establish environmental baselines and assess habitat quality, quantity and regional distribution. Habitat models may be developed for the identification of representative habitats.

b) Buffers and depth zonation: Experimental studies and research may be conducted to address important data gaps for designing buffer zones, such as data on hydrodynamic patterns and geophysical characteristic of vents fields, which are necessary for understanding the footprint around which to design buffer zones.

c) Better knowledge of AINPs and S/A-Precaution: As such areas may be located outside contract areas and cover large geographical space, contractors are encouraged to collaborate with scientific organizations to conduct joint surveys. Where possible, the ISA secretariat may facilitate collaboration with other organisations and multinational research projects in developing multidisciplinary programmes for monitoring and research.

III. Monitoring and research to support non-spatial management

a) Risk analyses at the regional scale: This can be achieved through the development and application of frameworks and methodologies, such as cumulative impact analyses and scenario planning, to identify and assess risks to ecosystems, habitats, communities and species and to establish key thresholds which trigger management actions.

b) Physical and chemical characterization of natural hydrothermal plumes, as well as plumes from exploitation activities. Changes in hydrothermal fluid which may be associated with exploitation activities should also be monitored. Monitoring may focus on the composition of natural and mining-induced plumes and ecotoxicology, plume dispersal models, and the identification of tipping-points to inform monitoring efforts and associated management actions. A combination of different methodologies (field experiments and models) may be used to understand the behaviour of plumes and inform the development of relevant thresholds. Contractors will be encouraged to develop technological solutions for plume reduction.

c) Underwater noise: Hydrophones can be used for passive acoustic monitoring of background noises. The activities and behavior of fishes and marine mammals should also be monitored to understand the impacts of noises, and to inform the development of relevant thresholds.

d) Development of other thresholds: Thresholds should be identified through a phased approach, in collaboration with contractors, scientific communities and other relevant international bodies.

51. In implementing the above-noted priorities, dedicated expert workshops will be organized/facilitated by the ISA secretariat to identify priority knowledge gaps and to develop a structured approach towards monitoring, including the use of key indicators and parameters and associated thresholds for monitoring at a range of spatial and temporal scales. Consideration should be given to identifying variables that fulfil the criteria of specificity, sensitivity, and responsiveness for relevant monitoring priorities.

52. A collaborative approach will be essential for monitoring and research at the regional scale. To this end, the ISA secretariat should facilitate collaboration among contractors, sponsoring States, scientific institutions and programmes, international and regional bodies, and other organizations in the implementation of the priorities. Such collaboration will be directed towards, *inter alia*: developing mechanisms for reviewing environmental data in DeepData and intercalibration studies to ensure coherence within DeepData, and to bring together historic academic data as well as contemporaneous data. As part of this collaboration, models and methodologies need to be developed or adapted from existing efforts to ensure compatibility between datasets, particularly historical datasets. Intercalibration of sensors may also help

540 ensuring consistency in sensor methodology and comparability of sensor data. ISA secretariat will
541 also facilitate taxonomic standardization and associated intercalibration studies through the
542 organization of taxonomic workshops and other means, aimed at the development of standardized
543 taxonomy identification systems using traditional, image-based and molecular methods.

544 53. In implementing the monitoring and research priorities in relation to area-based and non-
545 spatial management, the ISA secretariat will facilitate collaboration with relevant international
546 and regional organizations, contractors, scientific institutions and the industries. It is recognized
547 that the implementation of this REMP can draw on existing practices and lessons of other
548 competent international and regional organizations, where relevant and appropriate. Collaboration
549 with other competent international and regional organizations will aim to bring together existing
550 knowledge and resources to inform the design and monitoring of SINPs, AINPs and S/A
551 Precaution, as well as the development of relevant thresholds. The implementation of this REMP
552 would also benefit from sharing best practices and creating synergies at the regional scale with
553 the relevant competent international and regional organizations within the context of respective
554 competences and mandates.

555 54. The implementation of the different monitoring and research programmes should also
556 create opportunities for capacity development of developing country member States, including
557 through the collaboration with relevant international and regional bodies/organizations/initiatives.

558 55. Technology will play an important role in future environmental management and
559 monitoring. ISA secretariat will facilitate a forum on technology development, to link engineers,
560 contractors and scientists, to better understand how technology is evolving, the impacts of new
561 technologies, and how technology advancements can improve our ability to monitor the
562 environment (e.g., through development of AUV and sensor technologies).

563 56. In order to effectively facilitate the implementation of this REMP, the ISA secretariat will
564 develop an information-sharing mechanism to compile relevant scientific and technical
565 information in support of its implementation, where appropriate in connection with the ISA
566 DeepData database, in collaboration with contractors and other relevant stakeholders.

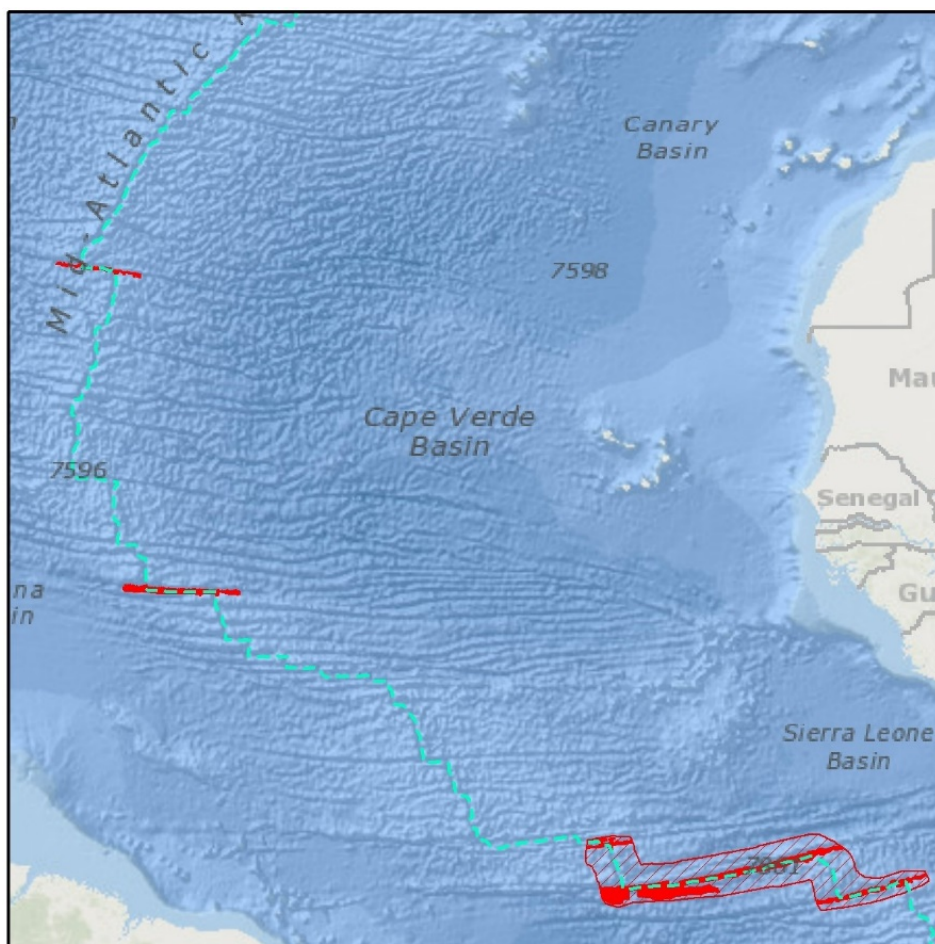
567 **Review of the progress in the implementation of the REMP**

568 57. The progress of the implementation of this REMP is to be reviewed by the LTC at least
569 every five years, as required, focusing on the key elements of the plan, including the
570 environmental setting, the management measures, and the implementation strategy. The review
571 will be undertaken to determine their suitability or need for amendment, on the basis of the best
572 available data and information and in alignment with the rules, regulations, and procedures of ISA.

573 58. The LTC will report the results of the review to the Council, and where appropriate,
574 provide recommendations to the Council on amendments to be considered for strengthening the
575 scientific basis and improving the implementation of the plan.

576

577 Annex I. List of Areas in Need of Protection (AINPs), with coordinates



Areas in need of protection
(Selected Fracture Zones)



578

579

580

581

582

583

584

585

1. Turning points for Kane Fracture Zone

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
1	-46.9892065	23.9425133	39	-45.1541388	23.6795076
2	-46.9458730	23.9236403	40	-45.0156542	23.6638032
3	-46.8666369	23.9593322	41	-44.9721101	23.6909290
4	-46.8233970	23.9389840	42	-44.9369214	23.6617369
5	-46.7938254	23.9250680	43	-44.8917116	23.6724444
6	-46.7367184	23.8943729	44	-44.8438238	23.6683564
7	-46.6596238	23.8950868	45	-44.7941537	23.6641163
8	-46.5466267	23.8639910	46	-44.7555812	23.6696408
9	-46.5275673	23.8700657	47	-44.7315466	23.6730831
10	-46.4621286	23.8909227	48	-44.6780087	23.6366773
11	-46.4507959	23.9186683	49	-44.6302088	23.6148615
12	-46.4448775	23.9331582	50	-44.5371719	23.6153374
13	-46.3890791	23.9407724	51	-44.4795617	23.6252559
14	-46.3425606	23.9682552	52	-44.4517220	23.6081238
15	-46.2955663	23.9634963	53	-44.4221229	23.6083881
16	-46.2705820	23.9450555	54	-44.3717721	23.6088376
17	-46.2384592	23.9236403	55	-44.3503569	23.5895640
18	-46.2220409	23.8929453	56	-44.2632686	23.5867086
19	-46.1950341	23.8415489	57	-44.2104446	23.5824256
20	-46.1539884	23.8671281	58	-44.1140764	23.5688627
21	-46.1165119	23.8213235	59	-44.0148529	23.5517306
22	-46.0778729	23.8080737	60	-43.9423067	23.5213487
23	-46.0379896	23.8094262	61	-43.9295214	23.5211506
24	-45.9707699	23.8379797	62	-43.9319845	23.4730260
25	-45.9322226	23.8094262	63	-43.9367934	23.4385125
26	-45.8274073	23.8046673	64	-43.9434964	23.4107037
27	-45.7827924	23.8445232	65	-43.9848717	23.3996830
28	-45.7631619	23.8088313	66	-44.0177083	23.4467963
29	-45.6959421	23.8171594	67	-44.0498310	23.4225258
30	-45.6626297	23.7814675	68	-44.0748153	23.4039660
31	-45.5981463	23.8094262	69	-44.0869506	23.4703530
32	-45.5400874	23.7755189	70	-44.1383469	23.5174663
33	-45.4865496	23.7927700	71	-44.1619036	23.5096141
34	-45.4503817	23.7580298	72	-44.1419161	23.4325196
35	-45.3768564	23.7901526	73	-44.2083031	23.4496517
36	-45.3083279	23.7944356	74	-44.2604133	23.5381676
37	-45.2212396	23.7546986	75	-44.3382217	23.5395953
38	-45.1398621	23.7544606	76	-44.4180254	23.5577506

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
77	-44.4515113	23.5653687	116	-46.4853283	23.8028827
78	-44.5609392	23.5774287	117	-46.4965297	23.7987988
79	-44.5752160	23.5167525	118	-46.5424354	23.7820624
80	-44.6116217	23.4989065	119	-46.5965681	23.8463078
81	-44.6380338	23.5296016	120	-46.6893944	23.8723192
82	-44.6473137	23.5917055	121	-46.7417425	23.8616116
83	-44.6775601	23.5891633	122	-46.8246724	23.8867088
84	-44.7236944	23.6224006	123	-46.8321620	23.8889754
85	-44.7289892	23.6230057	124	-46.9151779	23.8365520
86	-44.8236317	23.6338220	125	-46.9487283	23.8622502
87	-44.8236435	23.6337152	126	-46.9642221	23.9008727
88	-44.8275578	23.5981301	127	-47.0118113	23.8901651
89	-44.8532560	23.5317431	128	-47.0486657	23.8629641
90	-44.9032544	23.5553326	129	-47.0927130	23.8758883
91	-44.9450140	23.5428405	130	-47.1200768	23.9115803
92	-44.9835613	23.5542619	131	-47.1581482	23.9222878
93	-45.0064933	23.6071720	132	-47.2349775	23.9107912
94	-45.0725506	23.6308039	133	-47.3155177	23.9140652
95	-45.1962553	23.6315615	134	-47.3147026	23.9485370
96	-45.2551470	23.6440537	135	-47.3120485	23.9968561
97	-45.3092797	23.6375101	136	-47.3060230	23.9943337
98	-45.3390230	23.6623755	137	-47.2371190	23.9914550
99	-45.4125483	23.6852183	138	-47.2021409	24.0057317
100	-45.4990417	23.7267399	139	-47.1464615	23.9900273
101	-45.5817280	23.7255502	140	-47.1165076	23.9401338
102	-45.6186369	23.7069466	141	-47.0729362	23.9350617
103	-45.6780962	23.6934275	142	-47.0251090	24.0071594
104	-45.7542389	23.7326886	143	-46.9892065	23.9425133
105	-45.8196741	23.6934275			
106	-45.8986722	23.7480361			
107	-45.9648485	23.7366899			
108	-46.0357292	23.7037781			
109	-46.1587746	23.7497769			
110	-46.2265892	23.7521564			
111	-46.2836963	23.7652434			
112	-46.2967833	23.8223505			
113	-46.3645980	23.8401964			
114	-46.4332999	23.8417231			
115	-46.4716737	23.8425759			

588
589
590

2. Turning Points for Vema Fracture Zone

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
1	-44.4142454	11.0104244	38	-43.5538044	10.9504854	75	-42.8276209	10.9095353
2	-44.4028240	10.9847262	39	-43.5462181	10.9704495	76	-42.8123923	10.9019210
3	-44.3923544	10.9942441	40	-43.5090985	10.9609316	79	-42.7229246	10.8771746
4	-44.3809330	11.0237494	41	-43.4526236	10.9406359	80	-42.6629621	10.8790782
5	-44.3723669	11.0589654	42	-43.4481843	10.9390406	81	-42.6401193	10.8847889
6	-44.3419098	11.0627726	43	-43.4053540	10.9304745	82	-42.5934819	10.8866924
7	-44.3295366	11.0399297	44	-43.4018732	10.9356957	83	-42.5655454	10.8702592
8	-44.3181152	11.0189905	45	-43.3844147	10.9618834	84	-42.5611212	10.8676568
9	-44.3066938	10.9894852	46	-43.3596683	10.9628352	85	-42.5535951	10.8710777
10	-44.2933688	10.9752084	47	-43.3349219	10.9333299	86	-42.5401820	10.8771746
11	-44.2667189	11.0028101	48	-43.3246115	10.9281746	87	-42.5333948	10.8724613
12	-44.2410207	11.0266047	49	-43.3063684	10.9190531	88	-42.5059177	10.8533800
13	-44.2238886	11.0227976	50	-43.2711524	10.9142942	89	-42.4735571	10.8571871
14	-44.1962868	11.0142316	51	-43.2615039	10.9215305	90	-42.4554731	10.8695603
15	-44.1658297	10.9923405	52	-43.2521167	10.9285710	91	-42.4345339	10.8705121
16	-44.1652042	10.9922333	53	-43.2264185	10.9618834	92	-42.4002697	10.8495728
17	-44.1325173	10.9866298	54	-43.1988168	10.9590281	93	-42.3707643	10.8762228
18	-44.1030119	10.9980512	55	-43.1626490	10.9276192	94	-42.3636235	10.8840437
19	-44.0763620	10.9809191	56	-43.1217222	10.9609316	95	-42.3507769	10.8981139
20	-44.0440013	10.9523656	57	-43.0874580	10.9495102	96	-42.3306837	10.8834115
21	-44.0116406	10.9380888	58	-43.0769884	10.9352334	97	-42.3117537	10.8695603
22	-43.9792800	10.9476066	59	-43.0665187	10.9181013	98	-42.2958136	10.8824152
23	-43.9459675	10.9951959	60	-43.0531938	10.9266674	99	-42.2822484	10.8933549
24	-43.9202693	11.0009066	61	-43.0370134	10.9371370	100	-42.2717788	10.8962103
25	-43.8905824	10.9962498	62	-43.0122670	10.9409442	101	-42.2548169	10.8812439
26	-43.8717283	10.9932923	63	-42.9979903	10.9257156	102	-42.2394181	10.8676568
27	-43.8308016	11.0037619	64	-42.9780028	10.9085835	103	-42.2191173	10.8802239
28	-43.8172856	10.9959642	65	-42.9646778	10.9181013	104	-42.1994431	10.8924031
29	-43.8060552	10.9894852	66	-42.9570635	10.9095353	105	-42.1737450	10.8819335
30	-43.7917784	10.9656905	67	-42.9503795	10.8886475	106	-42.1657278	10.8786985
31	-43.7784535	10.9352334	68	-42.9494493	10.8857407	107	-42.1194933	10.8600425
32	-43.7584660	10.9323781	69	-42.9432564	10.8878947	108	-42.0595308	10.8609943
33	-43.7384785	11.0332672	70	-42.9275582	10.8933549	109	-42.0388271	10.8750728
34	-43.6775643	11.0332672	71	-42.8856797	10.8943067	110	-42.0357362	10.8771746
35	-43.6375894	10.9790155	72	-42.8698745	10.8835304	111	-41.9967131	10.8828853
36	-43.6042769	10.9295227	73	-42.8647404	10.8800300	112	-41.9837514	10.8739742
37	-43.5643020	10.9228602	74	-42.8609388	10.8830517	113	-41.9662560	10.8619460

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
114	-41.9386542	10.8628978	156	-40.7831387	10.8056239	196	-39.9518089	10.7332254
115	-41.8863061	10.8619460	157	-40.7781093	10.8047857	197	-39.9524469	10.7145231
118	-41.8301508	10.8724157	158	-40.7755553	10.8043600	198	-39.9536609	10.6789395
119	-41.8101633	10.8847889	159	-40.7441648	10.7991283	199	-39.9694123	10.6849141
120	-41.7521045	10.8800300	160	-40.7003827	10.7867551	200	-40.0055801	10.6782517
121	-41.7362711	10.8698149	161	-40.6952066	10.7990142	201	-40.0236640	10.6677820
122	-41.7225992	10.8609943	162	-40.6822988	10.8295854	202	-40.0417479	10.6487463
123	-41.6930938	10.8657532	163	-40.6575524	10.8276818	203	-40.0617354	10.6601678
124	-41.6464564	10.8676568	164	-40.6404203	10.7848515	204	-40.0807711	10.6782517
125	-41.6105851	10.8676568	165	-40.6251917	10.7962729	205	-40.1407335	10.6830106
126	-41.5969636	10.8676568	166	-40.5536493	10.7874293	206	-40.1959370	10.6772999
127	-41.5788797	10.8743192	167	-40.5350895	10.8088444	207	-40.2330566	10.6953838
128	-41.5512780	10.8686085	168	-40.5262062	10.7810444	208	-40.2597065	10.6696856
129	-41.5074375	10.8657983	169	-40.5062187	10.7753337	209	-40.2835011	10.6763481
130	-41.4770388	10.8638496	170	-40.4871830	10.8067426	210	-40.2968261	10.6906249
131	-41.3989925	10.8581389	171	-40.4808378	10.8495332	211	-40.3272832	10.6972873
132	-41.3770859	10.8634496	172	-40.4424491	10.8552836	212	-40.3567885	10.7039498
133	-41.3675836	10.8657532	173	-40.4195786	10.8319721	213	-40.3558368	10.6772999
134	-41.3637683	10.8632096	174	-40.4115955	10.8238350	214	-40.3653546	10.6677820
135	-41.3333193	10.8429104	175	-40.3872456	10.7905622	215	-40.3881974	10.6772999
136	-41.2705016	10.8419586	176	-40.3216518	10.8131274	216	-40.4015224	10.6858659
137	-41.2352855	10.8457657	177	-40.3109443	10.7760078	217	-40.4111157	10.6906626
138	-41.1895999	10.8248265	178	-40.2795354	10.7860016	218	-40.4148474	10.6925284
139	-41.1790902	10.8227702	179	-40.2488403	10.8138413	219	-40.4500634	10.7001427
140	-41.1458178	10.8162604	180	-40.2387673	10.7848515	220	-40.4786169	10.6820588
141	-41.0953732	10.8086461	181	-40.2149727	10.7829479	221	-40.4881348	10.6915766
142	-41.0439769	10.8143568	182	-40.1810257	10.8516747	222	-40.4995562	10.7077570
143	-40.9859180	10.8143568	183	-40.1597692	10.8200675	223	-40.5109776	10.7220337
144	-40.9583251	10.8160291	184	-40.1635763	10.7877069	224	-40.5614222	10.7325034
145	-40.9231003	10.8181640	185	-40.1664317	10.7458283	225	-40.6366132	10.7382141
146	-40.8858614	10.8066376	186	-40.1426371	10.7391659	226	-40.6834141	10.7434874
147	-40.8831253	10.8057908	187	-40.1093246	10.7629605	227	-40.7041898	10.7458283
148	-40.8660124	10.8046240	188	-40.1003620	10.8745175	228	-40.7365505	10.7591533
149	-40.8412468	10.8029354	189	-40.0796606	10.8002783	229	-40.7604207	10.7639274
150	-40.8330699	10.8380479	190	-40.0589593	10.8488194	230	-40.7928747	10.7704182
151	-40.8250665	10.8724157	191	-40.0398443	10.7620087	231	-40.7936576	10.7705747
152	-40.8136451	10.8809817	192	-40.0360372	10.8153086	232	-40.8536200	10.7772372
153	-40.8060308	10.8448139	193	-39.9836891	10.7867551	233	-40.9459431	10.7772372
154	-40.7992088	10.8206269	194	-39.9531498	10.7658139	234	-41.0239894	10.7800926
155	-40.7955612	10.8076943	195	-39.9525870	10.7521359	235	-41.0572328	10.7793620

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
236	-41.1106018	10.7781890	275	-41.5208209	10.6021089	314	-44.2362618	10.7791408
237	-41.1629499	10.7743819	276	-41.5360494	10.6144821	315	-44.3124045	10.7791408
238	-41.2124427	10.7639123	277	-41.5455673	10.6401803	316	-44.3790294	10.7753337
239	-41.2160798	10.7540402	278	-41.5542483	10.6496330	317	-44.4104383	10.7962729
240	-41.2191052	10.7458283	279	-41.5883976	10.6868177	318	-44.4627865	10.8000801
241	-41.1905517	10.7420212	280	-41.6226618	10.6658785	319	-44.5551095	10.8057908
242	-41.1420107	10.7325034	281	-41.6445528	10.6734927	320	-44.6070384	10.8074659
243	-41.0687233	10.7334552	282	-41.6826242	10.6772999	321	-44.6108045	10.8332848
244	-40.9659306	10.7363105	283	-41.7264063	10.6896731	322	-44.6114455	10.8376793
245	-40.8954985	10.7401176	284	-41.8073080	10.7125159	323	-44.6165497	10.8795345
246	-40.8909974	10.7413680	285	-41.8882096	10.7106123	324	-44.6193874	10.9177036
247	-40.8612343	10.7496355	286	-41.9710149	10.6944320	325	-44.6196756	10.9215791
248	-40.8288736	10.7515391	287	-42.0243148	10.6896731	326	-44.6223126	10.9735988
249	-40.7974647	10.7277444	288	-42.0899879	10.7077570	327	-44.6230222	10.9821396
250	-40.7993683	10.6887213	289	-42.1870699	10.6982391	328	-44.6017470	10.9723530
251	-40.8079343	10.6630231	290	-42.2736823	10.7001427	329	-44.5798559	10.9856780
252	-40.8212593	10.6220964	291	-42.4269196	10.6991909	330	-44.5674827	11.0266047
253	-40.8450539	10.5954464	292	-42.5858676	10.6972873	331	-44.5522542	11.0618208
254	-40.8736075	10.5963982	293	-42.7533817	10.6963356	332	-44.5322667	11.0570618
255	-40.8935949	10.6201928	294	-42.9294618	10.6963356	333	-44.5179899	11.0294601
256	-40.9097753	10.6639749	295	-42.9875206	10.6953838	334	-44.5008578	10.9970994
257	-40.9421359	10.6925284	296	-43.0874580	10.7010945	335	-44.4827739	10.9799673
258	-40.9982912	10.7049016	297	-43.2083346	10.7077570	336	-44.4665936	11.0142316
259	-41.0211341	10.6830106	298	-43.2978023	10.7144195	337	-44.4513650	11.0561101
260	-41.0373144	10.6953838	299	-43.3882219	10.7248891	338	-44.4370883	11.0694350
261	-41.0630126	10.7134677	300	-43.4672200	10.7372623	339	-44.4151972	11.0513511
262	-41.1153607	10.7115641	301	-43.5519288	10.7458283	340	-44.4142454	11.0104244
263	-41.1448660	10.7134677	302	-43.6309269	10.7477319			
264	-41.1724678	10.7010945	303	-43.7222982	10.7677194			
265	-41.2476587	10.6991909	304	-43.7519900	10.7651847			
266	-41.2904890	10.7068052	305	-43.8003445	10.7610569			
267	-41.3190426	10.7020463	306	-43.8581073	10.7833919			
268	-41.3809086	10.6830106	307	-43.8717283	10.7886586			
269	-41.4008960	10.6972873	308	-43.9221729	10.7762855			
270	-41.4399192	10.6953838	309	-43.9440640	10.7562980			
271	-41.4732316	10.6725410	310	-44.0078335	10.7553462			
272	-41.5036887	10.6496981	311	-44.1030119	10.7553462			
273	-41.5038510	10.6487249	312	-44.1374665	10.7615729			
274	-41.5103512	10.6097232	313	-44.1820101	10.7696230			

3. Turning points for Romanche Fracture Zone System

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
1	-15.7433035	0.5282108	40	-16.9507502	-0.0013369	80	-18.0729040	-0.2540356
2	-15.6772096	0.4858205	41	-17.0064296	-0.0198967	81	-18.1014575	-0.2540356
3	-15.6700018	0.4802524	42	-17.0649643	-0.0170413	82	-18.1266972	-0.2447368
4	-15.6786903	0.4812178	43	-17.1149330	0.0043738	83	-18.1285834	-0.2440419
5	-15.7043885	0.4683687	44	-17.1290158	0.0150768	84	-18.1324125	-0.2469520
6	-15.7124237	0.4598314	45	-17.1506249	0.0314997	85	-18.1642753	-0.2711677
7	-15.7272313	0.4440982	46	-17.1469461	0.0100402	86	-18.2085333	-0.2911552
8	-15.7586402	0.4226831	47	-17.1420588	-0.0184690	87	-18.2485082	-0.2940106
9	-15.8414455	0.4112617	48	-17.0957417	-0.0506896	88	-18.2597151	-0.2919991
10	-15.8871311	0.4126894	49	-17.0885713	-0.0556777	89	-18.3041876	-0.2840168
11	-15.9071186	0.3984126	50	-17.0763857	-0.0641546	90	-18.3798545	-0.3011489
12	-15.9656533	0.3841358	51	-17.0992285	-0.0884251	91	-18.4341062	-0.3225641
13	-15.9999176	0.3941296	52	-17.1491972	-0.0941358	92	-18.4969239	-0.3339855
14	-16.0180902	0.4064610	53	-17.1929826	-0.0780044	93	-18.5383266	-0.3439792
15	-16.0398925	0.4212554	54	-17.2034489	-0.0741484	94	-18.6016202	-0.3568283
16	-16.0969996	0.4255384	55	-17.2166281	-0.0632612	95	-18.6302924	-0.3482267
17	-16.1441129	0.4112617	56	-17.2362855	-0.0470225	96	-18.6396916	-0.3454069
18	-16.1856866	0.3710291	57	-17.2648390	-0.0284627	97	-18.7234486	-0.3872854
19	-16.1883709	0.3684314	58	-17.2768751	-0.0264567	98	-18.7976878	-0.3948997
20	-16.2589652	0.3194708	59	-17.2991033	-0.0227520	99	-18.8890591	-0.4139354
21	-16.2768868	0.3070413	60	-17.3547827	-0.0398841	100	-18.9575876	-0.4348747
22	-16.3611197	0.2870538	61	-17.3593644	-0.0446651	101	-19.0527660	-0.4462961
23	-16.4582018	0.2385128	62	-17.3658566	-0.0514395	102	-19.1403302	-0.4596210
24	-16.5581391	0.2028209	63	-17.3876192	-0.0741484	103	-19.1701634	-0.4799076
25	-16.5981141	0.2013932	64	-17.4490093	-0.0755760	104	-19.1879194	-0.4919817
26	-16.6090872	0.2076113	65	-17.4540338	-0.0761722	105	-19.2242026	-0.4850706
27	-16.6409444	0.2256637	66	-17.5332422	-0.0855698	106	-19.2278944	-0.4843674
28	-16.6709256	0.2413682	67	-17.5575127	-0.0941358	107	-19.3078443	-0.4843674
29	-16.7116082	0.2421078	68	-17.6003430	-0.0955635	108	-19.3858906	-0.4881746
30	-16.7494478	0.2427958	69	-17.6902867	-0.1169787	109	-19.4410941	-0.4805603
31	-16.7893816	0.2102183	70	-17.7364469	-0.1162897	110	-19.4962976	-0.4843674
32	-16.8036995	0.1985379	71	-17.7859410	-0.1155510	111	-19.4962976	-0.5110670
33	-16.8408191	0.1671290	72	-17.8330543	-0.1326831	112	-19.4962976	-0.5300531
34	-16.8685433	0.1364343	73	-17.8353147	-0.1350691	113	-19.5857653	-0.5605102
35	-16.8807940	0.1228710	74	-17.8587525	-0.1598090	114	-19.6561973	-0.5795459
36	-16.9101039	0.0876991	75	-17.8674357	-0.1639897	115	-19.7380508	-0.5833530
37	-16.9164859	0.0800407	76	-17.8972998	-0.1783688	116	-19.8002061	-0.5882279
38	-16.9293350	0.0400658	77	-17.9615452	-0.2083500	117	-19.8351328	-0.5909673
39	-16.9311298	0.0365959	78	-18.0200800	-0.2226267	118	-19.9112756	-0.6252315

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
119	-19.9204613	-0.6300946	159	-21.6035482	-1.1011237	199	-23.4703826	-1.5226280
120	-19.9759969	-0.6594958	160	-21.3846378	-1.1030273	200	-23.5642241	-1.5084875
121	-20.0457409	-0.6841113	161	-21.3579879	-1.0725702	201	-23.6708240	-1.5046803
122	-20.0730789	-0.6937600	162	-21.3027844	-1.0364024	202	-23.6941213	-1.4933158
123	-20.1036332	-0.6937600	163	-21.1999916	-1.0383060	203	-23.7488703	-1.4666089
124	-20.1587395	-0.6937600	164	-21.1124275	-0.9964275	204	-23.8668915	-1.4799339
125	-20.1663538	-0.7032779	165	-21.0534168	-1.0344988	205	-23.9297093	-1.4532840
126	-20.1685128	-0.7045733	166	-20.9734670	-1.0820880	206	-23.9449379	-1.3980805
127	-20.1949073	-0.7204100	167	-20.8364100	-1.1030273	207	-23.9335164	-1.3048056
128	-20.2297826	-0.7147849	168	-20.7336173	-1.1315808	208	-23.9339910	-1.3034935
129	-20.2539179	-0.7108921	169	-20.7227829	-1.1577639	209	-23.9592449	-1.2336739
130	-20.3080600	-0.7126109	170	-20.7170582	-1.1715987	210	-23.9658771	-1.2153379
131	-20.3738428	-0.7146993	171	-20.7107745	-1.1867843	211	-24.1676554	-1.1963022
132	-20.4880569	-0.7070850	172	-20.6669924	-1.3009985	212	-24.3028088	-1.2305664
133	-20.6346317	-0.7375421	173	-20.7431351	-1.3124199	213	-24.3096208	-1.2714387
134	-20.7526530	-0.7851313	174	-20.7696558	-1.3029903	214	-24.3142302	-1.2990949
135	-20.8992278	-0.8003599	175	-20.8287957	-1.2819628	215	-24.3151822	-1.3447925
136	-21.0819704	-0.8422384	176	-20.9277813	-1.2724449	216	-24.3180373	-1.4818375
137	-21.1695345	-0.8498527	177	-21.0305740	-1.2876735	217	-24.3069251	-1.5498997
138	-21.2875558	-0.8707919	178	-21.1847631	-1.3029020	218	-24.3028088	-1.5751124
139	-21.3960592	-0.8898276	179	-21.3123022	-1.3485877	219	-24.4378293	-1.5779253
140	-21.5540554	-0.9050561	180	-21.4227092	-1.3790448	220	-24.4855514	-1.5789195
141	-21.6367311	-0.9173044	181	-21.5559590	-1.4037912	221	-24.5179121	-1.5732088
142	-21.6568482	-0.9202847	182	-21.6701731	-1.4075983	222	-24.5481324	-1.6015403
143	-21.7310873	-0.9355133	183	-21.8243622	-1.4114055	223	-24.5483692	-1.6017623
144	-21.7765224	-0.9374887	184	-21.9538049	-1.4095019	224	-24.5523194	-1.6274390
145	-21.8186515	-0.9393204	185	-21.9754926	-1.4120702	225	-24.5674049	-1.7254943
146	-21.9347692	-0.9545489	186	-22.0984761	-1.4266340	226	-24.7292082	-1.7864085
147	-22.0356584	-0.9964275	187	-22.1993653	-1.4304411	227	-24.9804793	-1.7521443
148	-22.1079940	-1.0249810	188	-22.2218533	-1.4343917	228	-25.1460898	-1.6664837
149	-22.1147699	-1.0511168	189	-22.3402294	-1.4551875	229	-25.2279432	-1.6322194
150	-22.1213189	-1.0763773	190	-22.4544435	-1.4666089	230	-25.3310983	-1.6235196
151	-22.1135256	-1.1257355	191	-22.5103432	-1.4886539	231	-25.3364423	-1.6131804
152	-22.1098975	-1.1487130	192	-22.5895969	-1.5199089	232	-25.3653032	-1.5573415
153	-22.0394655	-1.1601344	193	-22.7533038	-1.5389446	233	-25.3952779	-1.4844442
154	-21.9519013	-1.1296773	194	-22.9360464	-1.5408481	234	-25.4188246	-1.4091952
155	-21.8453015	-1.0763773	195	-22.9931535	-1.5713052	235	-25.4357646	-1.3321670
156	-21.7786766	-1.1182559	196	-23.0902355	-1.5427517	236	-25.4450205	-1.2642300
157	-21.7101481	-1.1087380	197	-23.2710745	-1.5713052	237	-25.4580336	-1.1315198
158	-21.6359089	-1.1296773	198	-23.4252636	-1.5294267	238	-25.4587202	-1.1245182

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
239	-25.4587543	-1.1243620	274	-24.4850755	-1.0881557	314	-22.6081567	-1.0082058
240	-25.4125894	-1.1178989	275	-24.4403416	-1.0929146	315	-22.5424835	-1.0024951
241	-25.3555352	-1.1335428	276	-24.3832346	-1.0881557	316	-22.4339801	-0.9653755
242	-25.3388261	-1.1381244	277	-24.2775865	-1.0586504	317	-22.3026339	-0.9187381
243	-25.3341129	-1.1339656	278	-24.2071545	-1.0434218	318	-22.2713908	-0.8944977
239	-25.4587543	-1.1243620	279	-24.1519510	-1.0367593	319	-22.2474304	-0.8759078
240	-25.4125894	-1.1178989	280	-24.0938921	-1.0329522	320	-22.1646251	-0.8406917
241	-25.3555352	-1.1335428	281	-24.0491583	-1.0377111	321	-22.1573532	-0.8378569
242	-25.3388261	-1.1381244	282	-24.0053762	-1.0481807	322	-22.1084699	-0.8188007
243	-25.3341129	-1.1339656	283	-23.9615941	-1.0386629	323	-22.0675875	-0.8113222
244	-25.3186007	-1.1202784	284	-23.9206674	-1.0272415	324	-22.0304235	-0.8045239
245	-25.2507861	-1.1143297	285	-23.8702228	-1.0281933	325	-21.9533290	-0.7902472
246	-25.1948687	-1.1274168	286	-23.8359585	-1.0158201	326	-21.8809934	-0.7750186
247	-25.1460898	-1.1143297	287	-23.7607676	-1.0348557	327	-21.8029471	-0.7635972
248	-25.0794649	-1.1000530	288	-23.7207926	-1.0281933	328	-21.7883437	-0.7648400
249	-25.0101540	-1.0953539	289	-23.6836730	-1.0167718	329	-21.7582132	-0.7674043
250	-25.0092708	-1.0952941	290	-23.6532159	-1.0053504	330	-21.6858776	-0.7531276
251	-24.9664405	-1.1143297	291	-23.5999160	-1.0072540	331	-21.5983134	-0.7359954
252	-24.9190292	-1.1421581	292	-23.5190143	-0.9967844	332	-21.4926653	-0.7264776
253	-24.9117129	-1.1464525	293	-23.4561966	-0.9882183	333	-21.4650636	-0.7102973
254	-24.8546058	-1.1476422	294	-23.3971859	-0.9853630	334	-21.3993905	-0.7160080
255	-24.8396682	-1.1417843	295	-23.2982004	-0.9644237	335	-21.3698852	-0.7083937
256	-24.7939295	-1.1238476	296	-23.2020701	-0.9606166	336	-21.3061156	-0.7026830
257	-24.8077304	-1.0938664	297	-23.1897098	-0.9534476	337	-21.2480568	-0.6893580
258	-24.7858394	-1.0710236	298	-23.1775592	-0.9464002	338	-21.2099854	-0.6769848
259	-24.7477680	-1.0700718	299	-23.1544809	-0.9330148	339	-21.1871426	-0.6655634
260	-24.7420988	-1.0668322	300	-23.1240238	-0.9101720	340	-21.1585890	-0.6646116
261	-24.7211180	-1.0548432	301	-23.0926149	-0.9187381	341	-21.1071927	-0.6674670
262	-24.6954199	-1.0348557	302	-22.9888704	-0.9092202	342	-21.0710249	-0.6569973
263	-24.6729291	-1.0357208	303	-22.8708492	-0.9006541	343	-21.0358088	-0.6436724
264	-24.6706735	-1.0358075	304	-22.8181635	-0.8757276	344	-21.0015446	-0.6408170
265	-24.6468789	-1.0529397	305	-22.7823332	-0.8587756	345	-20.9358715	-0.6293956
266	-24.6173735	-1.0358075	306	-22.6966726	-0.8616310	346	-20.8873305	-0.6246367
267	-24.6107111	-1.0120129	307	-22.6955167	-0.8694913	347	-20.7988145	-0.6046492
268	-24.5469415	-1.0043986	308	-22.6871548	-0.9263523	348	-20.7750469	-0.5983435
269	-24.5536040	-1.0272415	309	-22.7021356	-0.9422695	349	-20.7055396	-0.5799028
270	-24.5650254	-1.0529397	310	-22.7023833	-0.9425327	350	-20.6198791	-0.5570600
271	-24.5650254	-1.0824450	311	-22.7157083	-0.9691826	351	-20.5532541	-0.5427832
272	-24.5479608	-1.0885707	312	-22.7071053	-0.9808827	352	-20.4599793	-0.5180368
273	-24.5279058	-1.0957699	313	-22.6919137	-1.0015433	353	-20.3914508	-0.5047118

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
354	-20.2743813	-0.4675922	394	-18.8400422	-0.2087069	434	-17.5932047	0.1386944
355	-20.2020457	-0.4457012	395	-18.7991155	-0.1963337	435	-17.5721965	0.1557635
356	-20.1525529	-0.4409423	396	-18.7534298	-0.1753944	436	-17.5627476	0.1634408
357	-20.1259029	-0.4457012	397	-18.7010817	-0.1573105	437	-17.5061609	0.1667694
358	-20.0983012	-0.4504601	398	-18.6553960	-0.1458891	438	-17.4980262	0.1672480
359	-20.0535673	-0.4333280	399	-18.6192282	-0.1401784	439	-17.4953944	0.1685639
360	-20.0354834	-0.4171477	400	-18.5754462	-0.1297088	440	-17.4561477	0.1881872
361	-20.0069299	-0.4000156	401	-18.5335676	-0.1068660	441	-17.4256906	0.2015122
362	-19.9726657	-0.3981120	402	-18.5173547	-0.0960573	442	-17.3781014	0.2034158
363	-19.9431603	-0.3847870	403	-18.5123042	-0.0926903	443	-17.3228979	0.2224514
364	-19.9088961	-0.3733656	404	-18.5107248	-0.0916374	444	-17.2791158	0.2319693
365	-19.8632105	-0.3686067	405	-18.4859784	-0.0821196	445	-17.2315266	0.2262586
366	-19.8394158	-0.3628960	406	-18.4777502	-0.0829424	446	-17.1820338	0.2319693
367	-19.8118141	-0.3524263	407	-18.4760312	-0.0831143	447	-17.1420588	0.2510050
368	-19.7718391	-0.3533781	408	-18.4479070	-0.0859267	448	-17.1268303	0.2776549
369	-19.7204428	-0.3391013	409	-18.3803304	-0.0821196	449	-17.1363481	0.2985942
370	-19.7111859	-0.3319015	410	-18.3508250	-0.0668910	450	-17.1150060	0.3185136
371	-19.7033107	-0.3257764	411	-18.2861037	-0.0450000	451	-17.1077946	0.3252442
372	-19.6673113	-0.3164862	412	-18.2204306	-0.0221571	452	-17.0583018	0.3309549
373	-19.6443000	-0.3105478	413	-18.2134256	-0.0171536	453	-17.0183269	0.3461834
374	-19.6301963	-0.3090632	414	-18.1871181	0.0016375	454	-16.9440877	0.3595084
375	-19.6081322	-0.3067407	415	-18.1528539	0.0206732	455	-16.8888842	0.3766405
376	-19.5424591	-0.3010300	416	-18.1490477	0.0259066	456	-16.8482317	0.3717129
377	-19.4863038	-0.2991264	417	-18.1376253	0.0416124	457	-16.8260664	0.3690262
378	-19.4862398	-0.2991308	418	-18.1109754	0.0454195	458	-16.7918022	0.3576048
379	-19.4311003	-0.3029335	419	-18.0976504	0.0625517	459	-16.7594415	0.3595084
380	-19.4377628	-0.3324389	420	-18.0929302	0.0845790	460	-16.7386597	0.4026706
381	-19.4481116	-0.3464097	421	-18.0919397	0.0892016	461	-16.7346951	0.4109048
382	-19.4567985	-0.3581370	422	-18.0514486	0.0940606	462	-16.7175630	0.4299404
383	-19.4263414	-0.3609924	423	-18.0443505	0.0949123	463	-16.6547452	0.4508797
384	-19.4120646	-0.3467156	424	-18.0500612	0.0720695	464	-16.5557597	0.4527833
385	-19.3302112	-0.3324389	425	-18.0024719	0.0758767	465	-16.5404827	0.4520889
386	-19.2455024	-0.3200657	426	-17.9605934	0.0949123	466	-16.5138811	0.4508797
387	-19.1864917	-0.3000782	427	-17.8406686	0.1215623	467	-16.5073013	0.4410100
388	-19.1132043	-0.2905603	428	-17.7721401	0.1329837	468	-16.5043544	0.4365895
389	-19.0770923	-0.2796773	429	-17.7484158	0.1263936	469	-16.4986526	0.4280369
390	-19.0437241	-0.2696211	430	-17.7378759	0.1234659	470	-16.4713381	0.4305976
391	-19.0104116	-0.2524890	431	-17.6535564	0.1422035	471	-16.4377384	0.4337476
392	-18.9152332	-0.2334533	432	-17.6350832	0.1463087	472	-16.3939563	0.4375547
393	-18.8570272	-0.2142969	433	-17.6321382	0.1457732	473	-16.3444635	0.4375547

Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude	Points	Longitude	Latitude
474	-16.3254278	0.4432654						
475	-16.2492851	0.4489761						
476	-16.2416708	0.4832404						
477	-16.1902744	0.4889511						
478	-16.1614530	0.5004797						
479	-16.1522031	0.5041796						
480	-16.1122281	0.5327332						
481	-16.0341818	0.5289260						
482	-16.0040498	0.5289260						
483	-15.9523283	0.5289260						
484	-15.9104498	0.5251189						
485	-15.8704749	0.5289260						
486	-15.8381142	0.5441546						
487	-15.7829107	0.5460581						
488	-15.7804302	0.5485387						
489	-15.7433035	0.5282108						
477	-16.1902744	0.4889511						
478	-16.1614530	0.5004797						
479	-16.1522031	0.5041796						
480	-16.1122281	0.5327332						
481	-16.0341818	0.5289260						
482	-16.0040498	0.5289260						
483	-15.9523283	0.5289260						
484	-15.9104498	0.5251189						
485	-15.8704749	0.5289260						
486	-15.8381142	0.5441546						
487	-15.7829107	0.5460581						
488	-15.7804302	0.5485387						
489	-15.7433035	0.5282108						

594

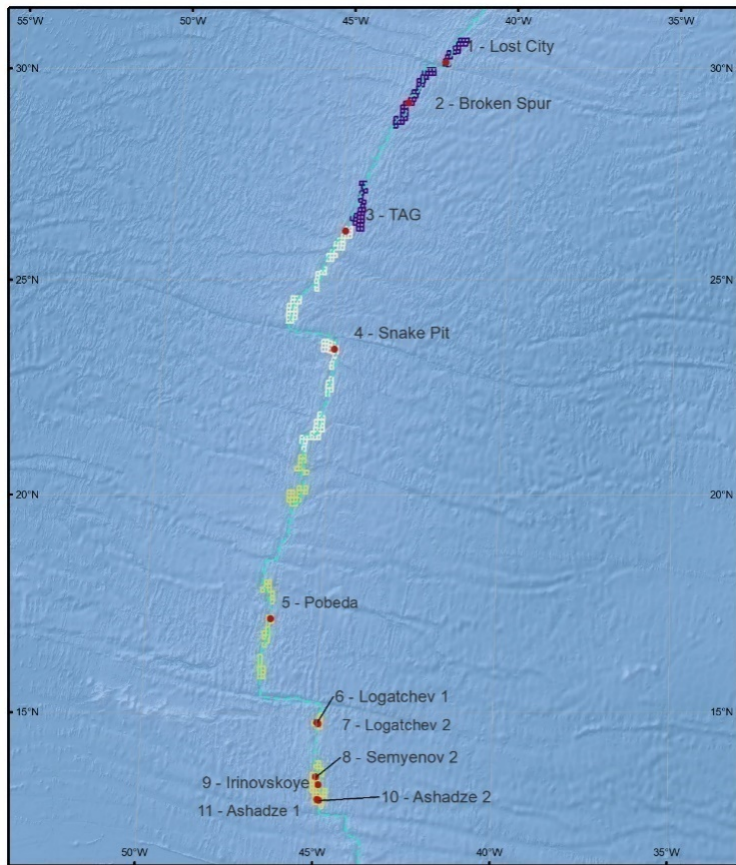
595

596

597

598

599 **Annex II. List of Sites in Need of Protection (SINPs), with coordinates**



Active Confirmed Hydrothermal Vents

Exploration Areas ● Active Confirmed Hydrothermal Vents
 Republic of Poland --- Ridge Axis
 IFREMER (France)
 Russian Federation

Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2020)

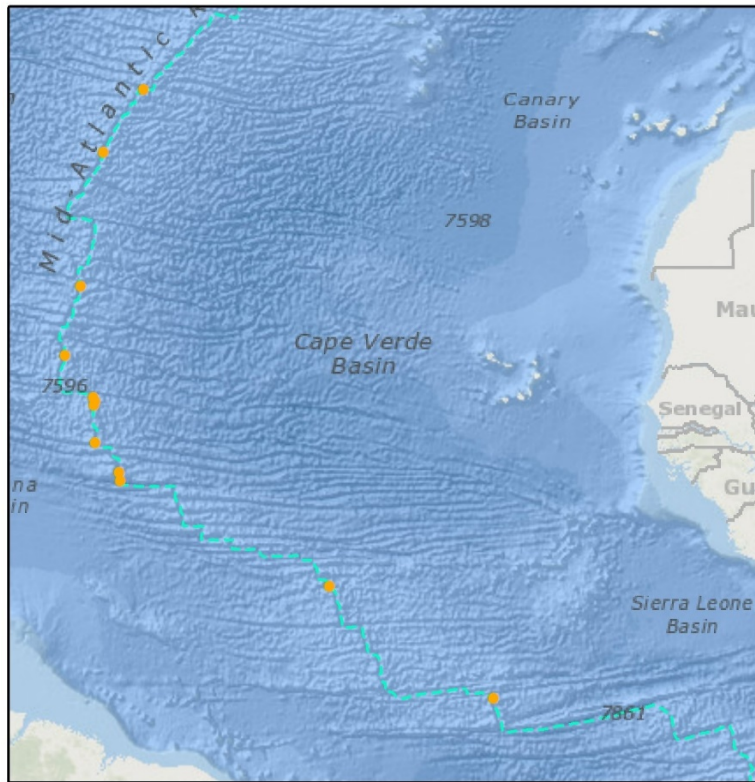
600

SINP	Longitude	Latitude
Lost City	-42.1183000	30.1250000
Broken Spur	-43.1717000	29.1700000
TAG	-44.8267000	26.1367000
Snake Pit	-44.9500000	23.3683000
Pobeda	-46.4166670	17.1333330
Logatchev 1	-44.9785000	14.7520000
Logatchev 2	-44.9380000	14.7200000
Semyenov 2	-44.9630000	13.5137000
Irinovskoe	-44.8833330	13.3333330
Ashadze 2	-44.9067000	12.9917000
Ashadze 1	-44.8633000	12.9733000

601

602 **Annex III. List of Site/Areas in Need of Precaution (S/A Precaution)**

603 It should be noted that the GIS coordinates for the Sites in Need of Precaution are GIS coordinates for the inferred
 604 active vents, and the GIS coordinates for the Areas in Need of Precaution are derived from models of habitat
 605 suitability for cold-water octocorals (Yesson 2012)²⁰. The GIS coordinates included in this Annex will need to be
 606 validated through future surveys of such sites and areas.



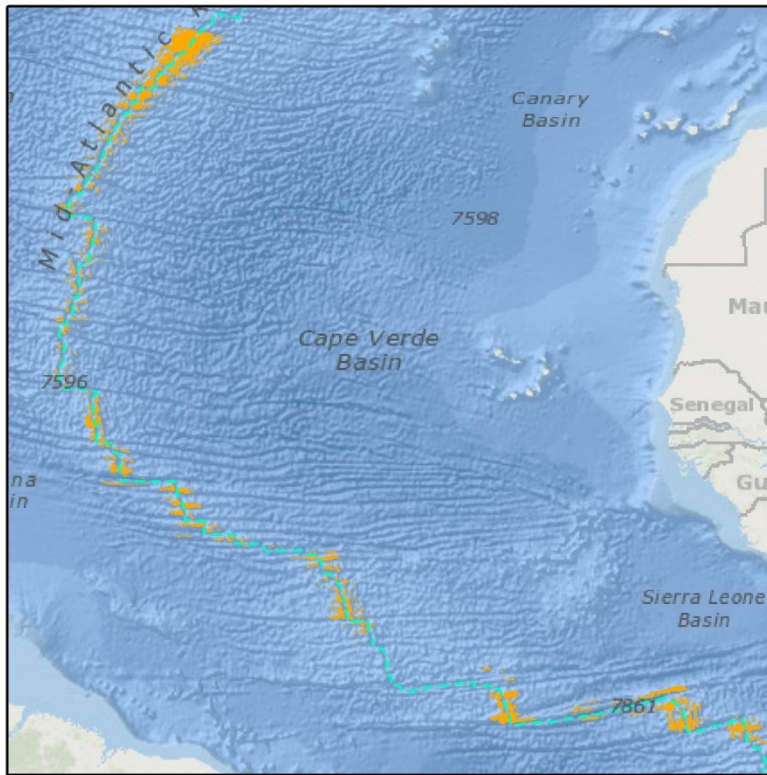
607 **Sites in Need of Precaution
(Inferred Active Vents)**

Sites in Need of Precaution	Longitude	Latitude
MAR, 30°N	-42.5000000	30.0333000
MAR, 27°N	-44.5000000	27.0000000
Puy des Folles	-45.6417000	20.5083000
MAR, 17°09'N	-46.4200000	17.1500000
MAR, south of 15°20'N fracture zone	-45.0000000	15.0833000
MAR, 14 54'N	-44.9000000	14.9200000
Logatchev 3	-44.9667000	14.7083000
Neptune's Beard	-44.9000000	12.9100000
MAR, 11°26'N	-43.7035000	11.4482000

²⁰ Yesson, C, Taylor, M.L, Tittensor, D. P. Davies, A.J., Guinotte, J., Baco, A., Black, J., Hall-Spencer, J. M. and Rogers, A.D. (2012) Global habitat suitability of cold-water octocorals." *Journal of Biogeography* 39 (7): 1278–1292. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2699.2011.02681.x>.

MAR, 11°N	-43.6483000	11.0380000
Markov Deep	-33.1800000	5.9100000
MAR, segment south of St. Paul system	-25.0000000	0.5000000

608



Areas in Need of Precaution
(Octocoral Habitat Suitability; Ridge Area)

609

610 Due to the large number of GIS coordinates for the Areas in Need of Precaution, the coordinates can be accessed
611 through the supplementary material available on ISA website [https://isa.org.jm/files/2022-04/GIS-coordinates-](https://isa.org.jm/files/2022-04/GIS-coordinates-areas-in-need-of-precaution-nMAR.xlsx)
612 [areas-in-need-of-precaution-nMAR.xlsx](https://isa.org.jm/files/2022-04/GIS-coordinates-areas-in-need-of-precaution-nMAR.xlsx)

613

614

615

616

617 **Annex IV. Scientific criteria applied for the identification and description of ABMTs in the northern Mid-**
618 **Atlantic Ridge based on criteria developed by other competent international organisations**

619 The criteria below are adopted from the criteria developed by other component international organizations, for
620 details please refer to the report of the Evora workshop²¹.

Scientific criteria for the identification and description of sites in need of protection (SINPs)

- **Uniqueness or rarity:** An area or ecosystem that is unique or that contains rare species whose loss could not be compensated for by similar areas or ecosystems. These include (i) habitats that contain endemic species; (ii) habitats of rare, threatened, or endangered species that occur only in discrete areas; (iii) nurseries or discrete feeding, breeding, or spawning areas.
- **Functional significance of the habitat:** Discrete areas or habitats that are necessary for (i) the survival, function, spawning/reproduction, or recovery of species; (ii) particular life history stages (e.g. nursery grounds or rearing areas); (iii) or of rare, threatened, or endangered marine species.
- **Fragility:** An ecosystem that is highly susceptible to degradation by anthropogenic activities.
- **Life-history traits of component species that make recovery difficult:** Ecosystems that are characterized by populations or assemblages of species with one or more of the following characteristics: (i) slow growth rates; (ii) late age of maturity; (iii) low or unpredictable recruitment; (iv) long-lived.
- **Structural complexity:** An ecosystem that is characterized by complex physical structures created by significant concentrations of biotic and abiotic features. In these ecosystems, ecological processes are usually highly dependent on these structured systems. Further, such ecosystems often have high diversity, which is dependent on the structuring organisms.
- **Information relating to any other relevant scientific criteria:** such as potential use as a scientific reference site

Scientific criteria for the identification and description of areas in need of protection (AINPs)

- **Uniqueness or rarity:** Area contains either (i) unique (“the only one of its kind”), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features.
- **Special importance for connectivity:** Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.
- **Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats:** Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.
- **Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery:** Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.
- **Biological productivity:** Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.
- **Biological diversity:** Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.
- **Naturalness:** Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.

621

²¹ https://www.isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/Evora%20Workshop_3.pdf

