

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28<sup>TH</sup> SESSION:  
COUNCIL - PART II**

*Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to [council@isa.org.jm](mailto:council@isa.org.jm).*

**1. Name of Working Group:**

Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment

**2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:**

USA

**3. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.**

Draft Regulation 46bis

**4. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.**

[4.bis.] The ~~Secretary General Contractor~~ shall ~~release publicly~~ submit to the Secretary General ~~environmental data and information in the required standardized format~~, ~~[in an accessible format,]~~ [in] real time or at monthly intervals, ~~if possible~~ consistent with best scientific practices, ~~environmental data and information in the required standardized format~~, and in accordance with the applicable Standards, and taking into account the applicable Guidelines. The Secretary General shall release the environmental data and information publicly in accordance with regulation 92bis.

**5. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]**

In paragraph 4bis on the public release of environmental data and information, we recommend removing the phrase “if possible” before “consistent with best scientific practices,” in order not to weaken this requirement. We believe that the unqualified use of the phrase “consistent with scientific best practices” will support the public release of datasets that are interpretable and useable by the Authority.

In paragraph 4bis, we further recommend that the text be adjusted to reflect that, in order for the Secretary General to publicly release environmental data and information in monthly or sub-monthly intervals, the Contractor must first submit the environmental data and information to the Secretary General at such intervals. In addition to submitting an annual report that provides a summary of the results of monitoring over the course of the previous year, as specified in paragraph 4, regular data submission at subannual intervals to the Authority will add value by making regular and routine verification of environmental conditions possible.