

DOSI intervention regarding item 14: Report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission at the second part of its twenty-ninth session

Delivered 18 July 2024

Thank you Mr,President,

DOSI would like to thank the Chair and the other members of the Commission for their report and constant hard work. We have a few comments and questions to raise.

With regards to the section on Annual reports, subsection environmental aspects, DOSI welcomes the increased availability of baseline environmental data. We note also, however, with concern, the lack of study in key and required aspects of the marine environment, such as data obtained by systematic surface observations and the deep pelagic environment. We note that opportunistic sightings on the surface or a focus on, for example, only few faunal groups of the deep pelagic such as f zooplankton, is insufficient to inform baseline information and risks the usefulness of Environmental Impact Statements.

With regards to the section on Regulatory activities of the Authority, DOSI welcomes the progress made by the Intersessional Expert Groups on environmental thresholds. DOSI would like to ask whether an assessment has been made on gaps in expertise in the initial sub-groups established, and if so whether it can be shared what these gaps are, and whether there are plans to identify additional experts, and if so what procedures would be followed for additional expert selection. If additional expertise is required, DOSI, with their extensive network of experts and expertise, stands ready to assist.

With regards to the section on Environmental management planning, DOSI welcomes the documents related to the REMP shared by the LTC. The Standard Procedure, Template and technical guidance document gives a good overview of the REMP function, goals, principles and objectives. We welcome the involvement of experts during the REMP process and note that many members of DOSI have been active in scientific and management based workshops. While the document highlights the principles and objectives of the procedure for REMP development, the modality on how these principles and objectives are applied is unclear. We hope there will be an opportunity to submit more detailed written comments in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President