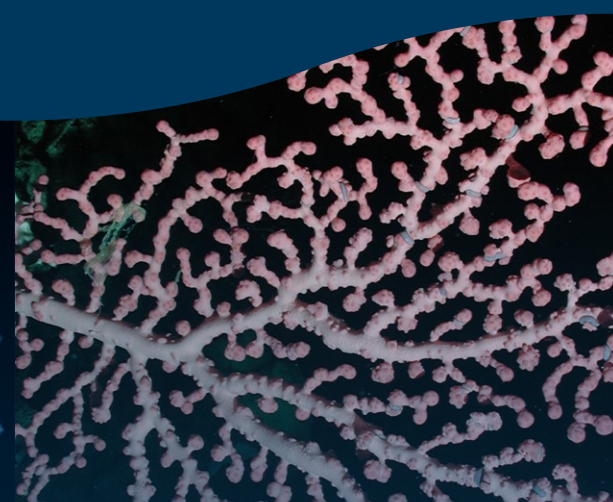


20

A vibrant, multi-colored jellyfish with orange, blue, and purple hues, positioned behind the number '20'. The jellyfish's bell is partially obscured by the '0', and its tentacles are visible at the top. The background is a dark, starry space.

years defending the deep



FOREWORD

It's been 20 years since a small group of ocean advocates created what would become the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC). But the story really begins a few years earlier, back in the late 1990s when scientists began documenting the damage being caused to deep-sea coral ecosystems by bottom trawling on seamounts and oceanic ridges, and how bottom trawling was depleting deep-sea species like grenadiers and orange roughy. When I learned about this, I was outraged – and determined to do something about it.

In 2002, we first raised the idea of a moratorium on bottom trawl fishing on the high seas to protect deep-sea ecosystems at a meeting of the newly established United Nations (UN) Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. The following year, we decided to work together to promote international action. We drew up a strategy for a campaign to advocate for the moratorium and took it to the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Our coalition was formalized in 2004 and we gave it the name Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. Beginning that year, we were successful in prompting the UNGA to adopt a series of resolutions committing nations to ending the destruction of deep-sea ecosystems by bottom fishing. Thanks to these resolutions, today much of the high seas is closed to bottom fishing, but full implementation has not yet occurred. The problem persists, particularly on the high seas of the North Pacific, Southwest Pacific and Southern Indian Oceans, where Japanese and New Zealand vessels are still trawling on seamounts. And the DSCC continues to work at the UNGA and 'in the trenches' with regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to convince all States to fulfill their obligations under the UNGA resolutions and international law.

As we approached our 10-year anniversary, a number of DSCC's members began expressing concern about the extensive and irreversible damage that deep seabed mining could cause to deep-sea ecosystems, including putting species at risk of extinction. This triggered our next major campaign. We began going to meetings of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and since 2019, the DSCC has been calling for a moratorium on opening the deep sea to mining due to the serious lack of understanding about the ecosystems that would be impacted, including their role as a global carbon sink.

The good news is that opposition to deep-sea mining is growing. Over 20 countries are now calling for a moratorium or precautionary pause, along with hundreds of civil society organizations, close to a thousand scientists and marine policy experts, as well as financial institutions, major automobile and tech companies, Indigenous groups, parliamentarians, and artisanal and high seas fisheries associations.

We can all make our voices heard by calling on governments to work toward changing the trajectory of our collective, global approach to the deep sea from one of damaging extractive industries to the conservation and protection of the deep sea for the benefit of all humankind.

Thank you to everyone – supporters, scientists, spokespeople, citizens around the world, and especially our over 120 member organizations – who have been part of the first 20 years of the DSCC's journey. I hope you will all enjoy the stories of our successes and struggles shared in this wonderful book. Together we have created a formidable movement dedicated to defending the deep – one that I know will continue to grow as we face the emerging challenges of the future.



**MATTHEW
GIANNI**
CO-FOUNDER,
POLITICAL AND
POLICY ADVISOR



RECOLLECTION

“A couple dozen individuals from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Greenpeace, WWF International, Marine Conservation Institute, Conservation International, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and a few other NGOs, met early in 2004 to decide whether to formalize a coalition. From that meeting we hit the ground running. Just one month later, we succeeded in getting a strong decision adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity COP-7, which we carried into the UNGA negotiations later in the year. This formed the basis of the first substantive UNGA resolution, adopted in November 2004, calling on RFMOs to ‘urgently adopt conservation measures to address the impact of destructive fishing practices including bottom trawling that has adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts’.”

MATTHEW GIANNI

DSCC FOUNDATION

In April 2004, the DSCC was founded.

DSCC

A moratorium is fundamental to halting the ravages of deep-sea bottom trawling on the high seas

The deep sea is one of the last frontiers on the planet – the home to breathtaking landscapes of mountains, hills, ridges and troughs that very few of us will ever see. Until approximately 30 years ago, it was assumed that there was little life in the cold and dark waters of the deep sea, which covers more than half the world's surface. The advent of manned and unmanned submersible technology, however, has turned that belief on its head. The world deep beneath the oceans' surface is far more diverse than had ever been imagined.

concern that human activities, particularly bottom trawling, are causing unprecedented damage to the deep-sea coral and sponge communities on continental plateaus and ridges, and on seamounts and mid-ocean ridges. The statement called on governments and the United Nations to adopt a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling. Never before had such a large number of scientists united around a specific marine environmental issue. The statement represented an unprecedented call to action by experts in marine science and conservation biology and is being cited in the resulting global campaign to halt deep-sea bottom trawling on the high seas. Underlying the statements made by the scientists is a still-emerging body of science. Scientists are only

DSCC for a moratorium before it's too late

The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, an alliance of over 40 international organizations, representing millions of people in countries around the world, is calling for a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling. For further information about the Coalition visit www.savethehighseas.org

J.M. KAPLAN FUND

Below: Geopline at the Davidson Seamount off the coast of California, USA.

For the fishery, scientists and the fishing industry know that the deep sea is teeming with life, most of which remains undiscovered. Indeed, scientists have speculated that as many as 10 million species may inhabit the deep sea, biodiversity comparable to the world's richest tropical rainforests. They are slowly discovering ecosystems which are extraordinary in nature, often hosting species found nowhere else.

© Hills Tranter

MEMORY “Watching the work that the DSCC is doing on seabed mining, it is clear that this organization continues to be a beacon of how teamwork across organizations and disciplines breaks down barriers, builds community and delivers results.”

KAREN SACK

MEMORY “From October 2004, I spent two months documenting deep-sea bottom trawling activities in the North Atlantic. From Greenpeace ships, we witnessed how unselective and damaging for the deep seabed these fisheries were. We suffered a lot of resistance from the industrial fishing sector back home. But eventually, I believe this work was critical to the adoption of UNGA resolutions prohibiting bottom fisheries that could harm vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems.”

SEBASTIÁN LOSADA



APRIL 2004
DSCC IS FOUNDED

APRIL 2004
OVER 1000 SCIENTISTS
Call for high seas bottom trawling moratorium

MAY 2004
IUCN/DSCC PUBLISH
SEMINAL REPORT
On bottom trawling on the high seas

OCTOBER 2004
EU BANS BOTTOM TRAWLING
In Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands water to protect seamounts

RECOLLECTION

“In the spring of 2004, I was in Paris to present a paper at a meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on fisheries issues. Much to my delight, I ran into Lisa Speer from NRDC, Karen Sack and Matt Gianni. They invited me to join them for a meal during which the main topic of conversation revolved around a campaign they were organizing to protect seamounts from deep-sea bottom trawling, as well as discussions with the Pew Charitable Trusts regarding funding for the campaign. It turned out to be a success.

A couple of months later I was asked by Pew to coordinate the new DSCC, whose members included Conservation International, Greenpeace, Marine Conservation Institute, NRDC, Oceana, and many others. The coalition issued its first press release at the UN ocean consultative process (UNICPOLOS) in June 2004, calling on the UN ‘to declare an immediate moratorium on bottom-trawl fishing to protect the world’s ‘underwater mountains’, or seamounts, and their vulnerable inhabitants,’ and formally launched later in the year.

Two years later, the campaign largely achieved its goal, as the UN adopted a resolution ‘committing all countries fishing on the High Seas to protect deep-sea ecosystems from the destructive impact of bottom fishing by December 31, 2008.’ It wasn’t a moratorium, but it came pretty close. This victory was a real testament to the brilliant people who came together in the DSCC. I have rarely seen a coalition whose members truly amounted to more than the sum of their organizational parts.”

KELLY RIGG

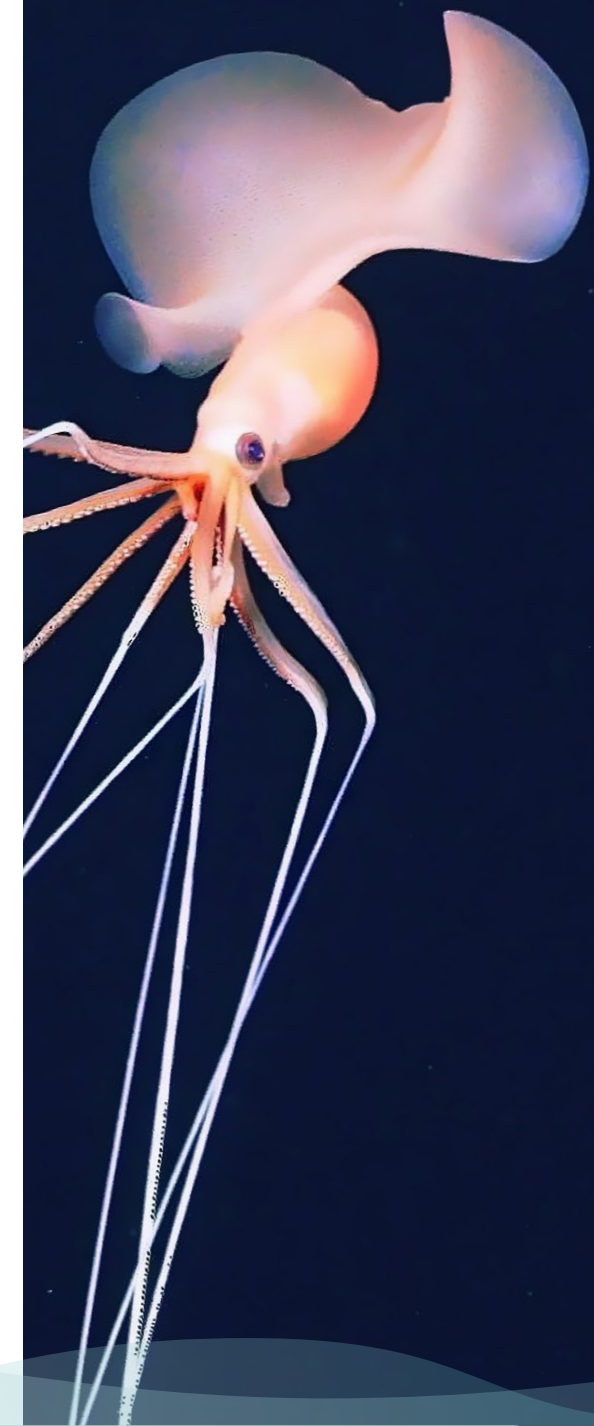
STORY

“Happy birthday DSCC! It’s hard to believe it’s been 20 years since a small group of us met in January 2004 at the J.M. Kaplan Fund in New York and agreed to launch a coalition to save the high seas from destructive deep-sea bottom trawling.

Matt Gianni and I had met in early 2003 (he would know the exact date, as he always does), and we both attended the Deep Sea 2003 Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand in December 2003. Together with Alistair Graham (WWF), and Barry Weeber (Royal Forest and Bird Society New Zealand), we hashed out a declaration calling for a moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling, unless and until certain conditions were met. As I had only recently started working with IUCN as an advisor on high seas marine protected areas (MPAs), I didn’t realize IUCN could not use the ‘m’ word without a resolution from IUCN members... We quickly switched to calling for an ‘interim prohibition’ instead.

We met again in January 2004 to continue the political planning. Conn Nugent of the J.M. Kaplan Fund graciously hosted us, with Lisa Speer (NRDC), Arlo Hemphill (Conservation International), Alistair Graham (WWF), and myself as part of the original core team. Things happened rapidly after that. By February, the DSCC had secured a decision from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) calling for ‘an interim prohibition’ on destructive deep-sea fishing practices. By June, the DSCC had grown to over 25 organizations. And by November of 2004, Matt and the DSCC had secured an IUCN resolution calling for protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea habitats, including through an ‘interim prohibition’ on unregulated bottom fishing. The rest is history.”

KRISTINA GJERDE



NOVEMBER 2004
UNGA RESOLUTION 59/25
 Calls for urgent deep-sea protection from bottom trawling

2005
DSCC GLOBAL SCIENCE TOUR

JUNE 2005
GREENPEACE RAINBOW WARRIOR
 Documents coral catch in high seas bottom trawling

RECOLLECTION

“From spearheading the campaign for this historic UN resolution, to their current endeavors in halting deep-sea mining, the DSCC’s visionary leadership and impact on safeguarding our planet’s most vital ecosystems is remarkable. May its legacy continue to make waves for generations to come.”

PEGGY KALAS

UNGA 61/105

In December 2006, UNGA Resolution 61/105 was adopted, committing all countries fishing on the high seas to protect deep-sea ecosystems from the destructive impact of bottom fishing by December 31, 2008.



© Ralf Roletshak

MEMORY “So great to see this organization we created 20 years ago turn into such a powerhouse!”

LISA SPEER



© Melissa Molyneux

OCTOBER 2005
ICES PROPOSAL
 EU deep-sea
 fisheries overhaul

JUNE 2006
CAPTAIN ROUGHY
VISITS UN
 DSCC campaign gathers pace

OCTOBER 2006
SIGOURNEY WEAVER
 Joins call for UN action

DECEMBER 2006
UNGA RESOLUTION 61/105
 Adopt and Implement measures to protect ecosystems
 from bottom fishing by 31 December 2008

STORY

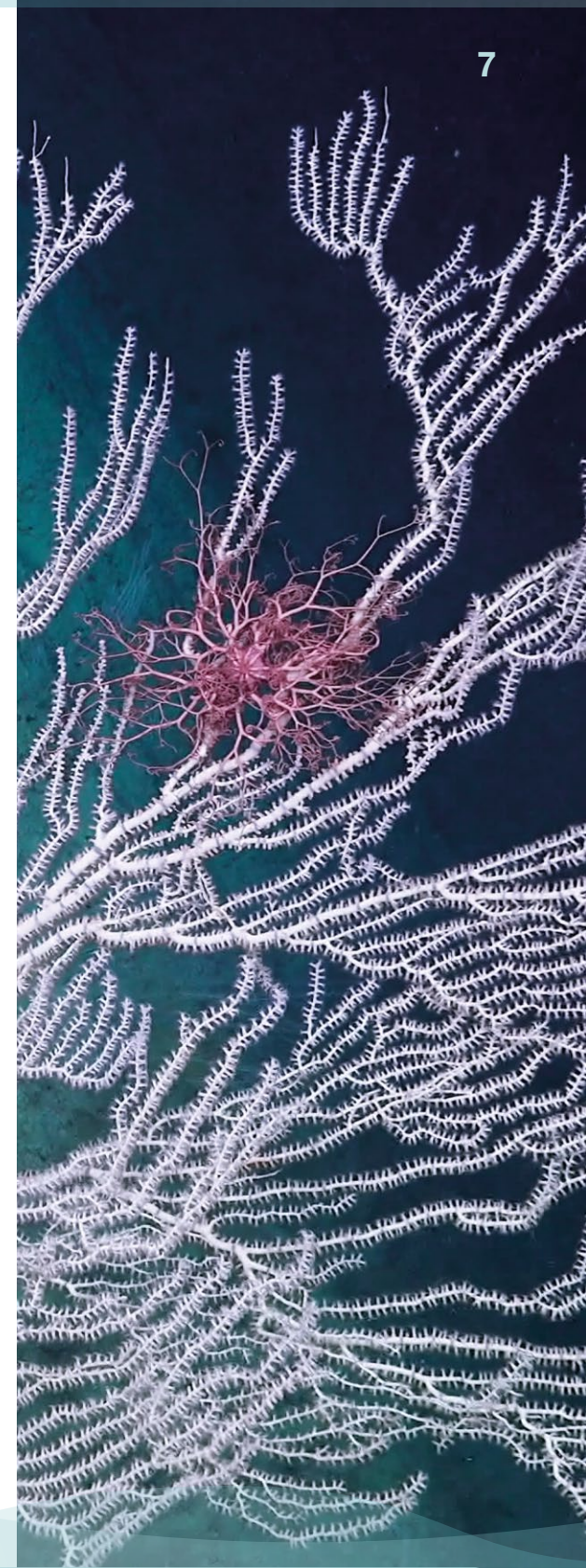
“My work involved promoting the agenda of the DSCC-led coalition of NGOs, scientists, and artisanal fishermen by convincing Latin American coastal States to adopt Resolution 61/105 at the UNGA. This meant an intense struggle within the official Chilean delegation attending the General Assembly. The DSCC campaign in Chile had to fight against the opposition and covert actions of former officials, some of whom came from the period of civil-military dictatorship from 1973 to 1990. They promoted the interests of industrial fishing and high seas trawling fleets, while in parallel trying to block and discredit the DSCC campaign.

The opposition to DSCC’s campaign was led by former Chilean Ambassador Fernando Zeger, a fervent defender of the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, who was an advisor to Chile’s delegation to the UNGA, while also working for the conservative Chilean National Fisheries Society. This caused a true ‘guerrilla war’ within the Chilean delegation. Before each key vote, Zeger tried to pressure and manipulate the head of the Chilean delegation, together with delegations from other countries with high seas trawling fleets.

Luckily, Zeger’s actions were blocked. I was a member of the official Chilean delegation representing the DSCC national coalition in Chile and, supported by the DSCC team’s excellent lobbying and communications work, and strong political and social pressure at the national level, the conservationist position of the Chilean government was maintained. The delegations and NGOs from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Latin America also helped to ensure that Chile maintained its international position in favor of the protection of deep-sea biodiversity and marine ecosystems.

Once Resolution 61/105 was adopted, the first step towards its implementation came in May 2007, at the third meeting of the South Pacific RFMO in Reñaca, Chile, where States – along with NGOs and the fishing industry – agreed to begin the management and limitation of trawling operations on the high seas in the South Pacific.”

JUAN CARLOS CÁRDENAS NÚÑEZ



2006-2007

LARGE AREAS ON THE HIGH SEAS

Of the Southeast Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans formally closed or put off limits to bottom trawling to meet UN deadline

2007-2008

WORKING WITH RFMOs

Implementing UNGA 61/105

AUGUST 2008

FAO ADOPTS

Deep-sea fisheries guidelines

2008-2009

LARGE AREAS ON THE HIGH SEAS

Of the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans formally closed or otherwise put off limits to bottom trawling to meet UN deadline

RECOLLECTION

“I remember an excited phone call from our President, Dr. Elliott Norse, in 2004, following the founding meeting for the DSCC in NYC. Our goal was to stop bottom trawling on seamounts and he was pretty amped up about finding a coalition of the willing that could build on the great work of DSCC founder Matt Gianni to tackle this significant issue. Marine Conservation Institute’s report comparing the impact of bottom trawling to forest clear cutting and scientists’ statements provided additional support for ending this practice. Little did I know that, two decades later, and with significant progress to identify and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems thanks to the diligence of the DSCC, this appallingly destructive practice would still continue. The urgency today is more significant than ever, with dwindling fish populations, loss of biodiversity, and the accelerating climate crisis. I am proud that the DSCC has not given up the fight to protect our Planet Ocean.”

LANCE MORGAN

RECOLLECTION

“The 2009 UNGA resolution was an important moment on the path to protecting the deep sea. It solidified what was agreed in 2006 and meant we could really hold countries to account. And we have seen an incredible amount of progress, where vast areas of deep-sea species and entire seamount chains have been set off limits to bottom trawls. Since the DSCC started its work, there has been a sea change in how the world thinks about the deep-sea floor. Considering it’s a place invisible to most, the DSCC has done a remarkable job of daylighting this ecosystem - and making countries pay attention.”

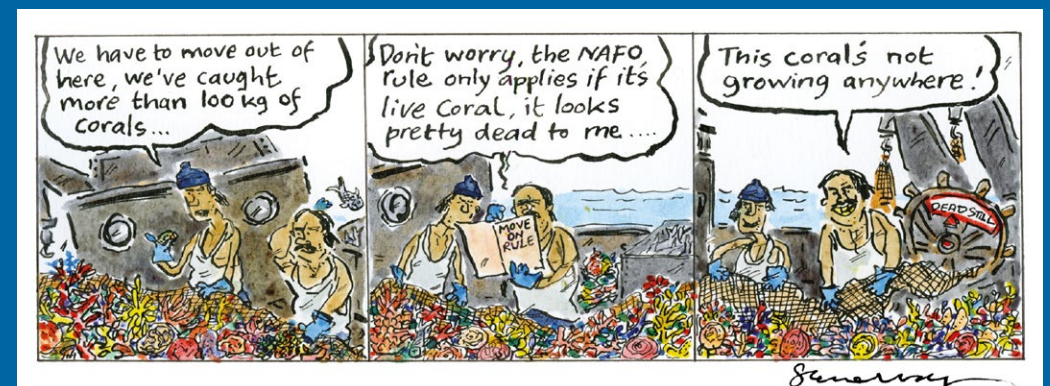
SUSANNA FULLER

UNGA 64/72

In December 2009, a new UNGA Resolution (64/72) was adopted, calling on high seas fishing nations to take stronger actions to protect deep-sea life.

MEMORY “Establishing a balanced approach to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from the impacts of bottom fishing at the UNGA negotiations in 2009, which subsequently translated into concrete measures by the EU as well as different States and regional fisheries bodies, would not have been possible without the DSCC’s tireless championing of the protection of the ocean and its denizens. I congratulate the DSCC on their 20th anniversary and commend you for the important work you have been undertaking to protect the ocean. It was a real pleasure and honor for me to work together with all my colleagues for over a decade for this purpose.”

JOHN BRINCAT



© Steve Way

DECEMBER 2009 UNGA RESOLUTION 64/72

Stronger action to protect deep-sea life

SEPTEMBER 2011 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS'

DSCC review of UNGA resolutions

DECEMBER 2011 UNGA RESOLUTION 66/68

Calls for States and RFMOs to act

2011 EU/SPAIN

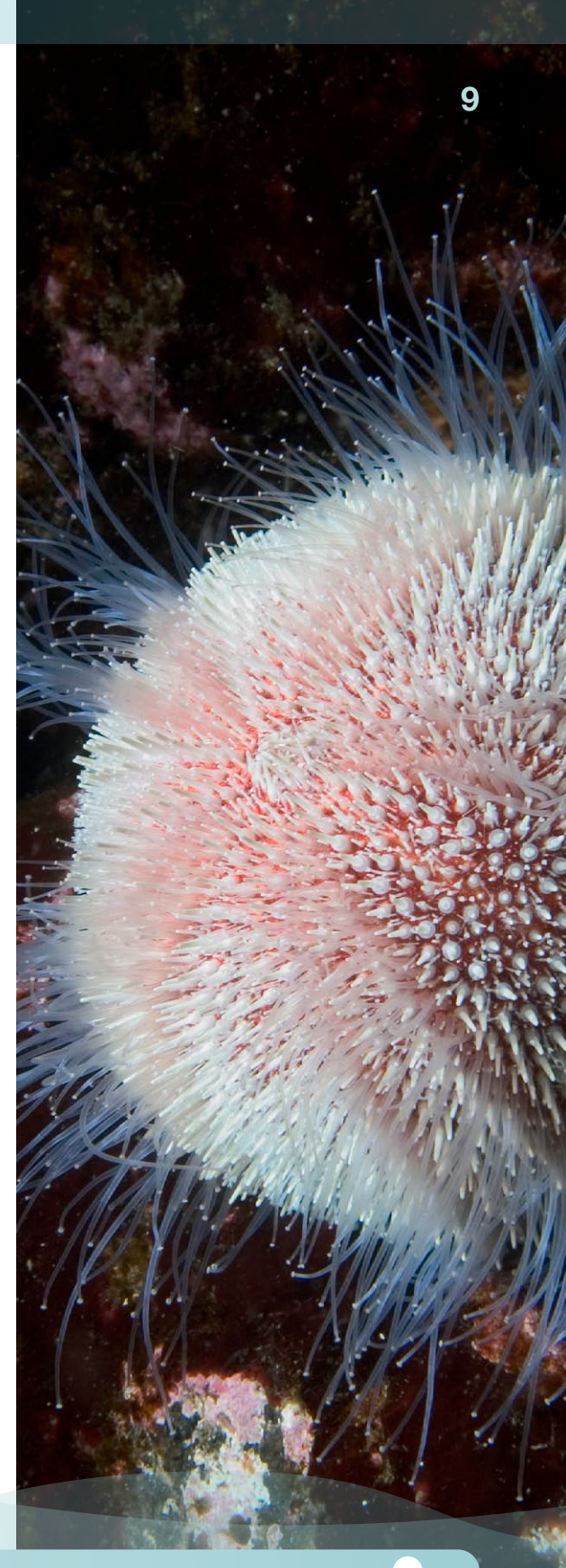
Prohibit deep-sea trawling on high seas in Southwest Atlantic

STORY

“The 2009 resolution was crucial. Remember that the 2006 resolution committed States to adopting and implementing the measures agreed at that time by December 31st 2008. We were concerned that some States would try and water down what had been agreed in 2006, or else somehow extend the deadline. Three of us from the DSCC were invited into the UNGA negotiations to present our review of the implementation of the 2006 resolution and our recommendations for further calls for action by the UNGA in 2009. The good news was that the UNGA ultimately reaffirmed the deadline by agreeing in Resolution 64/72 that no bottom fishing should be allowed on the high seas unless it met the conditions agreed in 2006 and, moreover, strengthened those conditions. And the General Assembly fully endorsed the

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) guidelines, a major step forward in transitioning internationally agreed criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and conducting impact assessments, which a number of scientists and members of the DSCC – as well as concerned countries – had spent the previous two years developing and negotiating. So, a very good outcome in 2009, the result being continued momentum for taking action to protect deep-sea ecosystems from the harmful impacts of high seas bottom trawl fisheries.”

MATTHEW GIANNI



MAY 2012
DEEP-SEA VOYAGE
12 new species discovered

JUNE 2012
NEAFC SPECIAL REVIEW
DSCC and scientists work to enhance bottom fishing restrictions in North East Atlantic

JULY 2012
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Proposes deep-sea bottom trawl phase-out in EU waters

DECEMBER 2013
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Votes to protect VMEs but fails by a handful of votes to ban deep-sea trawling

RECOLLECTION

“The EU decision in 2016 was the conclusion of a very long and heated discussion, that I had the honor to initiate as a Marine EU Commissioner. The original proposal I tabled was considered to be too radical and painful for the fisheries industry. But as a wise man once said, the victory comes when you insist on what is true, even if not obvious. So, we never stopped trying and with the support of civil society, including the DSCC, the culmination came after four years. A moment of happiness!”

MARIA DAMANAKI

EU REGULATION

In December 2016, the EU formally adopted a new regulation for the management of deep-sea fisheries in EU waters. The regulation was the culmination of over four years of negotiations that began in July 2012 and included measures to protect deep-sea coral and other VMEs from bottom fishing below 400 meters and a ban on bottom trawling below 800 meters in EU waters.

MEMORY “In reflecting on the journey towards the EU’s adoption of its new regulation for deep-sea fisheries in December 2016, I am still deeply moved by the collective effort, dedication, and resilience demonstrated by the DSCC. Despite the challenges, setbacks, and fierce opposition faced along the way, our unwavering enthusiasm and determination propelled us forward.”

SANDRINE POLTI

MEMORY “At the time the deep-sea trawling ban was being considered by the European Parliament, I had moved to the University of Hawaii, so travel to Europe to advise the DSCC about deep-sea habitats, and to help lobby various EU parliamentarians, was extensive. And on top of that I had to buy a suit! My role in helping to get a deep-sea trawling ban in EU waters was to supply science data and evaluate the arguments coming from the opponents. This was ‘teaching’ at a different level, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

LES WATLING



JULY 2014
DSCC BEGINS
ATTENDING ISA MEETINGS
as an official “observer”

JANUARY 2015
UN AGREES TO DEVELOP HIGH SEAS TREATY
Collaboration with High Seas Alliance bears fruit

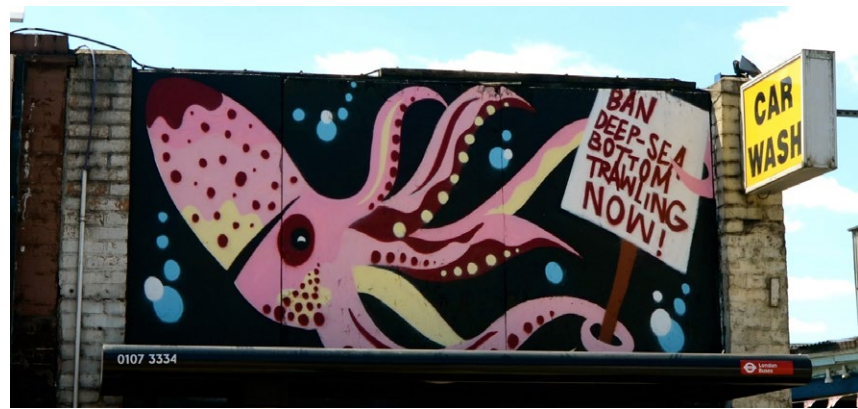
NOVEMBER 2015
EU DEEP-SEA FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS
EU Council agrees to ban on bottom trawling below 800 metres, Trilogue begins

© Hils Tranter

STORY

“To me, the DSCC is Matt and Matt is simply my favorite person in the world. Not working with him on a daily basis is what I miss most in my professional life nowadays. Nothing beats his irreplaceable expertise, coupled with his profound kindness and irresistible sense of humor on top of his epic California stories... People seemed dull compared to him. Thank you Matt for being the awesome, unique person you are. The thing that sticks out throughout our endless years of campaigning together is the fact that Matt never caved in to the temptation of a low-hanging win. Even after we lost the December 2013 European Parliament vote, for pretty dirty reasons, he was my most precious ally in the campaign. We stuck to our high-hanging victory, which seemed impossible, but Matt fully supported me in early 2014 when I pledged to the group to give me more time to crack the French nut. We were in such a bad position with EU institutions that truly, it would have been reasonable to let go of the effort to obtain a deep-sea bottom trawl ban. But Matt was like me – it made me sick to leave the deep sea to ruthless industrial bandits. We hung on, and it was so worth it.”

CLAIRE NOUVIAN



JULY 2016
DSCC 10-YEAR REVIEW OF UNGA RESOLUTIONS
 Spotlights slowing progress

AUGUST 2016
UNGA STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
 DSCC participates on bottom trawling

DECEMBER 2016
UNGA ADOPTS RESOLUTION 71/123
 Calling for greater action to protect seamounts and VMEs

DECEMBER 2016
EU REGULATION
 Deep-sea fisheries regulation adopted with bottom trawl ban below 800 meters

RECOLLECTION

“I have had the pleasure to work with Matt Gianni since the establishment of the DSCC. Initially we worked on fisheries management issues, and he introduced me to the UNGA negotiations in New York, where he persuaded me to give a talk reflecting on the biological findings of the HERMES project. I was new to the policy forum, but Matt and his colleagues showed me how science was used and how it needed to be packaged to be of value to political debate. This was an invaluable lesson that I have drawn on for the rest of my career.”

PHIL WEAVER

NATURE GEOSCIENCE

In June 2017, the DSCC participated in writing a commentary piece led by deep-sea biologists entitled “Biodiversity loss from deep-sea mining” published in *Nature Geoscience*. The piece made the case that biodiversity loss will be unavoidable if deep-sea mining is permitted to occur and that most mining-induced loss of biodiversity in the deep sea is likely to be permanent on human timescales.

MEMORY “The DSCC has been an important advocate for the creatures and ecosystems of the deep ocean that I have been studying my entire career. It has been a pleasure to join forces with the DSCC in international policy venues to raise awareness about the deep ocean and the challenges it faces.”

LISA LEVIN



correspondence

Biodiversity loss from deep-sea mining

To the Editor — The emerging deep-sea mining industry is seen by some to be an engine for economic development in the maritime sector¹. The International Seabed Authority — the body that regulates mining activities on the seabed beyond national jurisdiction — must also protect the marine environment from harmful effects that arise from mining². The International Seabed Authority is currently drafting a regulatory framework for deep-sea mining that includes measures for environmental protection. Responsible mining increasingly strives to work with no net loss of biodiversity³. Financial and regulatory frameworks commonly require extractive industries to use a four-tier mitigation hierarchy to prevent biodiversity loss in order of priority, biodiversity loss is to be avoided, minimised, remediated and — as a last resort — offset⁴. We argue here that mining with no net loss of biodiversity using this mitigation hierarchy in the deep sea is an unattainable goal.

The first tier of the mitigation hierarchy is avoidance. Potentially useful mitigation strategies in the deep sea include patchwork extraction, whereby some minerals with associated fauna are left undisturbed, or other means to limit the direct mining footprint. Even so, loss of biodiversity will be unavoidable because mining directly destroys habitat and indirectly degrades large volumes of the water column and areas of the seabed due to the generation of sediment plumes that are enriched in bioavailable metals.

Although biodiversity loss within mines is inevitable, innovative engineering design could reduce or minimize some risks to near- and far-field biodiversity. For example, shrouds fitted to cutting equipment might reduce the dispersion of sediment plumes and the footprint of plume impacts such as the burial of organisms. Similarly, which design might limit compaction of seabed sediments. Of course, the efficacy of such efforts in mitigating biodiversity loss would need to be tested.

Remediation addresses the residual loss of biodiversity at and around a mine site after avoidance and minimization interventions. In the deep sea, native species are often slow to recolonise and recolonise disturbed habitats. Slow

loss of largely unknown deep-sea species and ecosystems is acceptable. We question this assumption on scientific grounds. The relationship between any gain in biological diversity in an off-site setting and loss of biological diversity in the deep sea is so ambiguous as to be scientifically meaningless. Further, compensating biodiversity loss in international waters with biodiversity gains in national waters could constitute a transfer of wealth that runs counter to the Law of the Sea, where benefits from deep-seabed mining must accrue to the international community at large, as part of the common heritage of humankind. Given the paucity of other industrial activities in the deep sea (except perhaps fisheries), it is difficult to imagine a scenario where avoided risk offsets⁵ could apply. That is, where a mining operation could avert biodiversity losses from other activities.

The four-tier mitigation hierarchy used so often to minimize biodiversity loss in terrestrial mining and offshore oil and gas operations thus fails when applied to the deep ocean. Residual biodiversity loss cannot be mitigated through remediation or offsets and the goal of no net loss of biodiversity is not achievable for deep-seabed mining. Focus therefore must be on avoiding and minimizing harm. Most mining-induced loss of biodiversity in the deep sea is likely to last forever on human timescales, given the very slow natural rates of recovery in affected ecosystems. It is incumbent on the International Seabed Authority to communicate to the public the potentially serious implications of this loss of biodiversity and ask for a response.

References

1. *Blue Growth Opportunity for Marine and Maritime Industries* (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015).
2. *Seabed Mining: Environmental Guidelines* (2016).
3. *Seabed Mining: Environmental Guidelines* (2016).
4. *Seabed Mining: Environmental Guidelines* (2016).
5. *Seabed Mining: Environmental Guidelines* (2016).

Author contributions L.L. and P.W. conceived the idea for this commentary. L.L. and P.W. wrote the commentary. L.L. and P.W. edited the commentary. L.L. and P.W. approved the final version of the commentary for submission.

Additional information Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to L.L. (lewin@ucsb.edu).

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Microscopy The photograph was taken by the DeepSEA team at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Supplementary Information Supplementary Information is available in the online version of this article.

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JUNE 2017
NATURE GEOSCIENCE PAPER
Biodiversity loss from deep-sea mining

JUNE 2017
1ST UN OCEAN CONFERENCE
DSCC calls to ban trawling on seamounts

SEPTEMBER 2017
BERLIN ISA WORKSHOP
DSCC questions deep-sea mining rationale

NOVEMBER 2017
LATIN AMERICAN MARINE SCIENCE CONGRESS
DSCC presentation

© June 2017, *Nature Geoscience* 10(7):464–465

STORY

“I had the pleasure of working alongside an impressive group of campaigners who sought to secure a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling from the UNGA, beginning in 2004. They taught me so much! I remember more than a few stories that are not suitable for this anniversary book. However, I also vividly remember arguing, at one of our meetings in advance of the final UNICPOLOS session, that we should ignore Iceland’s objections to the moratorium. ‘How can an island nation of only a few hundred thousand people on a rock in the middle of the Atlantic undermine the objectives of Australia, the United States and the European Union?’ I said (or something to that effect). Alas, Iceland emerged as our key opponent, effectively blocking consensus on the moratorium. I was humbled. Two weeks later, an editorial in the Washington Post screamed ‘Blame Iceland’ in its editorial headline. Lisa Speer had a lot to do with that (thank you!). One month later, I found myself in a meeting in Washington, D.C., with the Icelandic fisheries minister who was on a roadshow trying to improve Iceland’s image on ocean conservation. I smiled.”

CHUCK FOX



JANUARY 2018
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)
 First EP resolution calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining & transparency at ISA

MARCH 2018
UN FAO/NPFC WORKSHOP
 Protecting VMEs in the North Pacific

APRIL 2018
SCIENTISTS & OTHERS CALL FOR ACTION
 To make deep-sea mining off-limits on hydrothermal vents

RECOLLECTION

“One of the success factors of the DSCC is coherent, joined-up advocacy, based on a joint position. Getting to that position was a long and difficult process, as those involved had different views on what was achievable and how to get there, resulting in heated discussions. Despite these differences of opinion, we were united by a passion to protect the ocean and the precious life and ecosystems it harbors. This shared passion ultimately shone through, enabling us to reach a lasting compromise that allows the campaign to grow from strength to strength.”

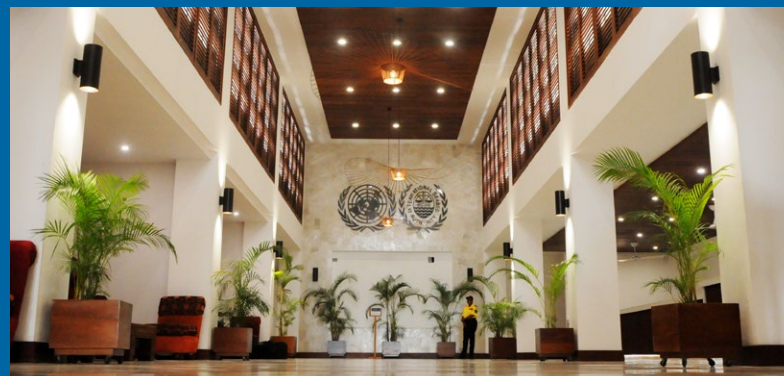
MONICA VERBEEK

POSITION STATEMENT

In August 2019, the DSCC Steering Group approved a new Position Statement calling for a moratorium on: i) deep seabed mining, ii) the adoption of seabed mining regulations for exploitation, and iii) the issuing of exploitation and new exploration contracts, unless and until a set of conditions (summarized in our Position Statement) has been met. The Position Statement provided a useful basis for coalition organizations to develop their own positions and messaging on this issue and ensures a common understanding and minimum standard across our diverse membership.

MEMORY “Having a jointly agreed Position Statement that has gone through the thorough scrutiny of numerous experts in law, policy and science, as well as ensuring local communities’ perspectives are included, makes us solid and realistic in our call for a moratorium on this speculative destructive industry. I am proud that WWF can bring our wide variety of expertise and experience into the coalition – and equally grateful for the know-how we gain by working together across organizations in the DSCC.”

JESSICA BATTLE



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SEPTEMBER 2018
HIGH SEAS TREATY TALKS
 DSCC at 1st
 negotiation session

NOVEMBER 2018
WEF GLOBAL BATTERY ALLIANCE
 DSCC joins panel debate on batteries
 and no need for deep-sea mining

FEBRUARY 2019
6TH WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT
 Race to the bottom—the outlook
 for deep-sea mining debate

JUNE 2019
NEW ZEALAND SEAMOUNTS PETITION
 20,000 people support
 bottom trawling ban

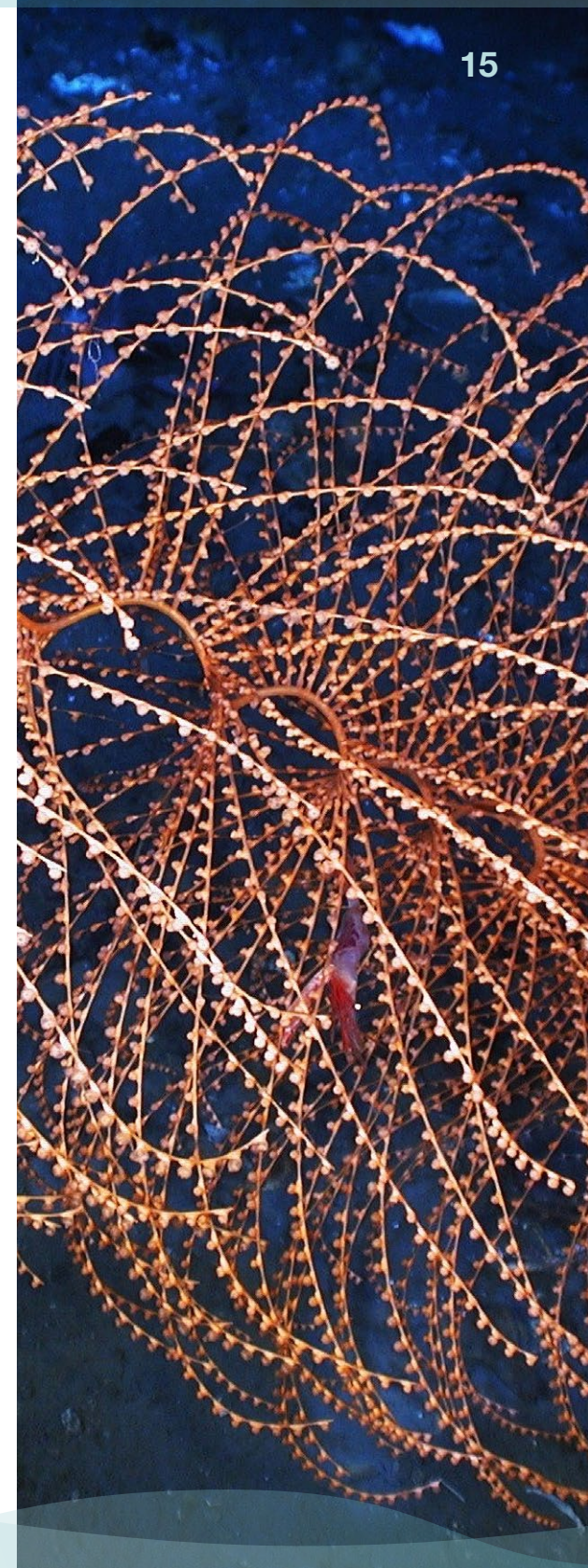
STORY

“I clearly recall the pivotal meeting, in August 2019, when the DSCC Steering Group approved a new Position Statement calling for a moratorium on deep seabed mining, the adoption of seabed mining regulations for exploitation, and the issuing of exploitation and new exploration contracts, unless and until a set of conditions have been met.

Five years later, this has led to (at the time of writing) 24 countries adopting a position supporting a moratorium or precautionary pause on deep-sea mining, as well as the IUCN, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, many NGOs, the European Parliament, fishing interests, and some of the world’s biggest companies.

The Position Statement was a recognition that deep-sea mining, once started, would be a massive new polluting industrial activity in the ocean that would be all but impossible to stop over many decades. It was also a natural progression from the DSCC’s work on bottom trawling, protecting the deep sea from an already existing damaging industrial activity. Except that we had by then spent some 15 years fighting bottom trawling; we only had a few years to make sure the deep-sea mining genie stayed in the bottle. The battle is not yet won: the threat of deep-sea mining is still imminent. But momentum for a moratorium is growing every day as more and more people realize that deep-sea mining is not wanted, not needed and not worth the risk.”

DUNCAN CURRIE



AUGUST 2019
DSCC LAUNCHES DEEP-SEA MINING MORATORIUM POSITION STATEMENT
Calls for moratorium

OCTOBER 2019
RESPONSIBLE MINERALS INITIATIVE CONFERENCE
DSCC & members raise deep-sea mining concerns

NOVEMBER 2019
NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT
DSCC & Greenpeace protest bottom trawling

RECOLLECTION

“Despite the deep ocean being the largest realm on Earth and home to hundreds of thousands of species, shockingly, there was no international celebration of it before 2020. The DSCC’s inaugural #DeepWeek changed this, making the deep ocean less out of sight and out of mind. From quizzes with deep-sea experts to the screening of breathtaking deep-sea imagery, the 2020 #DeepWeek had it all, laying the foundation for an annual event that shines a light on this critically important, but fragile part of our planet.”

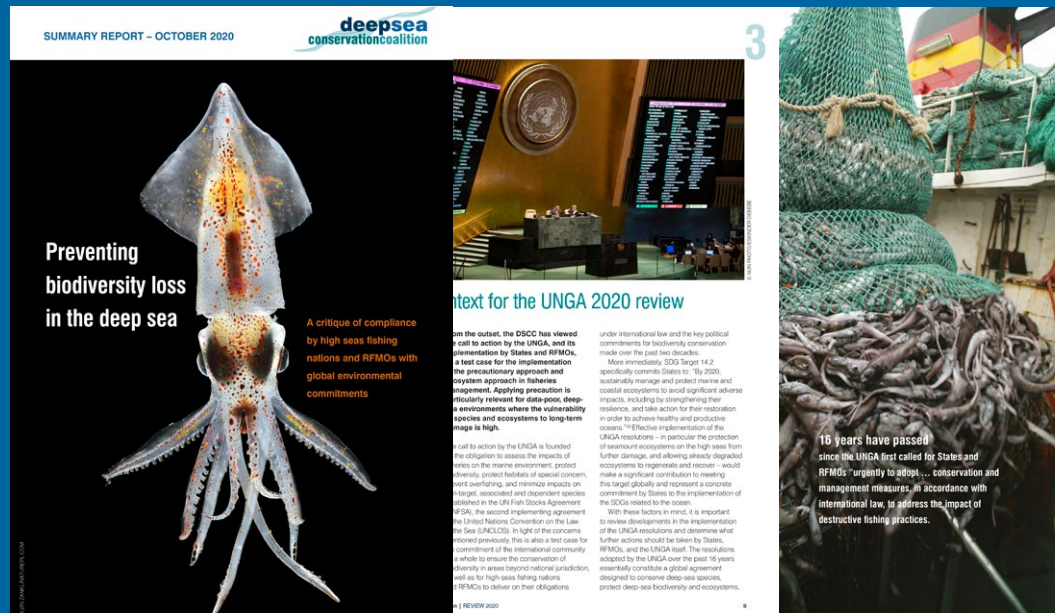
DIVA AMON

#DEEPWEEK

In October 2020, the DSCC created and held the first ever #DeepWeek – a concerted communications effort across the DSCC community to deepen public awareness of, and engage new audiences with, the urgent threats facing the health of the deep sea.

MEMORY “We created Deep Week during the Covid pandemic, when people were confined to their homes and the ocean felt like a long way away. This event served as both a tribute to the ocean’s profound depths and a celebration of the enduring love and fascination it inspires. Participants expressed their deep-seated connection to the oceanic realm and shared their knowledge, passion and stories about the irreplaceable life forms living there.”

MIRELLA VON LINDENFELS



#DEFENDTHEDEEP

© Hills Tranter

GAME OVER



JANUARY 2020
SPRFMO COMMISSION
DSCC rebuts attempts to justify VME destruction

JUNE 2020
VIRTUAL OCEAN DIALOGUES
Pacific Islanders deep-sea mining Storytelling

JUNE 2020
CREATURES OF THE DEEP
DSCC hosts World Ocean Day event

JUNE 2020
BELGIAN PARLIAMENT
DSCC members join deep-sea mining moratorium debate

STORY

“In 2004, I first worked for the DSCC to design their logo and branding, followed by a varied array of work – newsletters, event invites, campaigns, posters, ads, reports, fact sheets, badges, etc. In 2005, large-scale exhibition panels were needed in New York. Though photographs of deep-sea creatures were available, in general they weren’t good enough quality to be used large-scale. Mirella von Lindenfels had the inspired idea to commission a large oil painting from me, combining various creatures, which was then photographed and scanned into a digital image to be used for a large triptych.

I had also played with ideas for an abstract painterly movement of the ocean, later used in 2005 for a scientific ‘red herring’ report, ‘Debunking claims for sustainability. High seas bottom trawl red herrings.’ Some high resolution photographs were out there, but scientists and photographers were often at sea for long periods of time and email and mobiles weren’t so widely

used then. Mirella would come up with creative solutions for visual imagery and clever ways of reaching out to people. One advertising campaign springs to mind, featuring the dark black with eyes at the bottom with the headline ‘we are in deep trouble’. Another was a great idea to reach out to children and capture their imaginations. They were invited to draw their own deep-sea creatures and monsters and share them online. They were fantastic.

As scientists predicted many years ago, they are always finding more amazing creatures in the deep. It’s been a privilege to have helped protect this vital resource to our planet, working with Communications INC and the DSCC. It’s been wonderful and informative – life in the deep sea is awe inspiring and incredible.”

HILLS TRANTER



JULY 2020
GAME OVER CAMPAIGN LAUNCH
Risks and responsibilities of deep-sea mining

OCTOBER 2020
1ST DEEP WEEK
Engages new audiences

OCTOBER 2020
BIODIVERSITY LOSS IN THE DEEP SEA
DSCC critiques non-compliance with UNGA resolutions

NOVEMBER 2020
NEAFC MEETING
Pushes for ban on bottom trawling on seamounts

RECOLLECTION

“The collective action of DSCC members, alongside active State and civil society members, ensured a landslide outcome and victory in the voting to pass Motion 69, forcing it into IUCN policy, which means members need to implement actions to deliver on the call for a moratorium on deep seabed mining. The energy and leadership of the DSCC campaign ahead of the World Conservation Congress was palpable, drawing on expertise from across the globe – from Instagram to webinars to forum meetings resulting in boots on the ground presentations in various forums in Marseille. Totally amazing to be part of!”

PIPPA HOWARD

IUCN RESOLUTION 122

In September 2021, the DSCC participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress to ensure a positive vote for Motion 069, now IUCN Resolution 122 - a powerful statement calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

MEMORY “Change happens when people come together in action. Our joint work has brought deep-sea mining to the forefront across political fora and in the media. Momentum is high; more and more people are saying NO to deep-sea mining. I am looking forward to what comes next on the road to safeguarding the fragile and wondrous deep sea, the last remaining pristine area of our planet.”

SOFIA TSENIKLI

MEMORY “After so many years of work by the DSCC and its partners to platform the overlooked threat of deep-sea mining, it was so joyous for me to witness the watershed moment when IUCN Member States and civil society organizations alike voted overwhelmingly in support of a resolution calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining in Marseille.”

ANNA HEATH



MARCH 2021

NEW ZEALAND GREEN PARTY

Ban Bottom Trawling campaign launch

JUNE 2021

EU PARLIAMENT VOTE

Approves DSCC's Biodiversity Strategy recommendations

SEPTEMBER 2021

NAFO AGREEMENT

Agrees to protect all seamounts from bottom fishing

SEPTEMBER 2021

IUCN RESOLUTION 122

Overwhelming vote for deep-sea mining moratorium

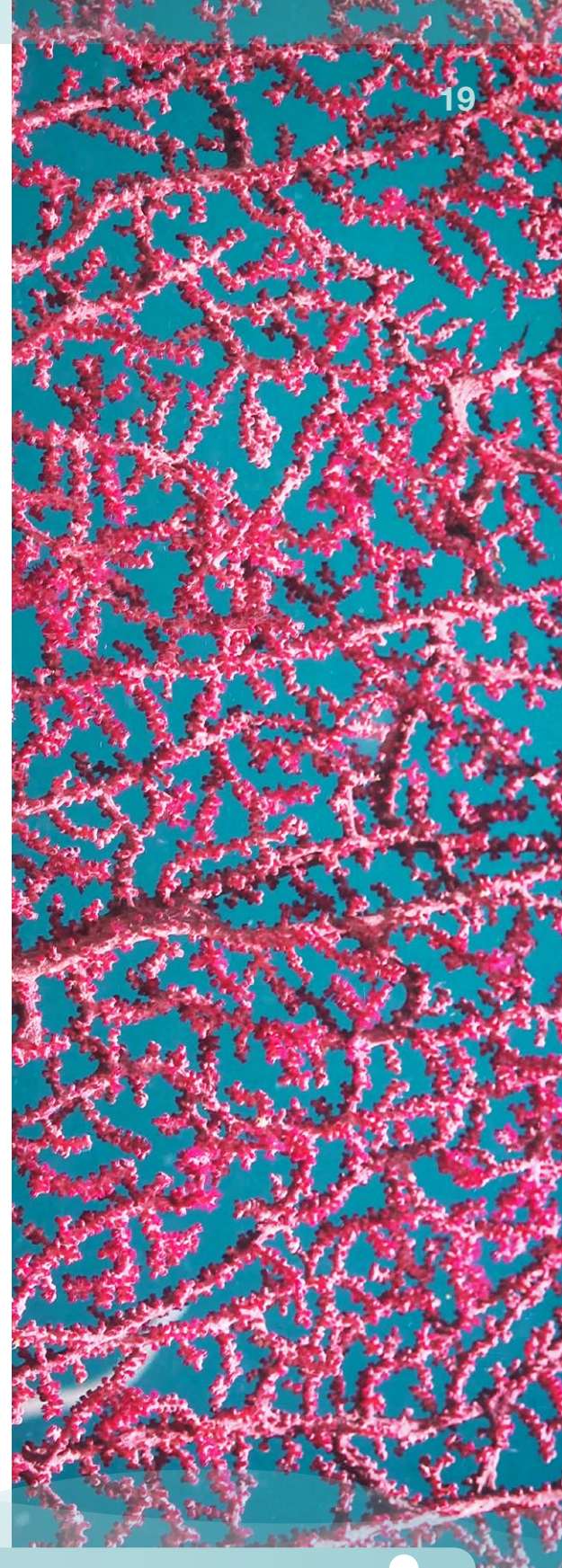
STORY

“A healthy deep sea is critical for all life on Earth. Deep-sea mining will have irreversible impacts on nature and biodiversity and could cause the extinction of species, many of which are yet to be discovered. For two decades, this dedicated coalition of NGOs has been at the forefront of protecting the deep sea, ensuring the preservation of this vital ecosystem for current and future generations. Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. We thank the DSCC for protecting the deep for all of us.

One of the coalition’s remarkable achievements was their instrumental role in leading to an IUCN resolution on a moratorium for deep-sea mining, which was adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021. This significant milestone showcases their advocacy for the protection of delicate deep-sea habitats from exploitation.

Moreover, the coalition’s proactive approach towards raising awareness amongst country delegates at the ISA about the importance of deep-sea conservation is commendable. By educating and engaging stakeholders on the significance of preserving these unique ecosystems, the DSCC have sparked a global conversation beyond the corridors of the ISA on the need to safeguard our ocean’s depths and its resources. The DSCC stands as a beacon of hope for the deep sea, and their dedication to conservation is truly inspiring. I wholeheartedly support their mission and applaud their relentless efforts in advocating for the protection of our ocean’s most mysterious and vulnerable realms.”

MINNA EPPS



FEBRUARY 2022
ONE OCEAN SUMMIT
Massive street march telling leaders to “Listen to the Ocean”

MARCH 2022
ISA NEGOTIATIONS TRACKER
DSCC launches new tool

MAY 2022
DSCC WELCOMES 100TH MEMBER!

RECOLLECTION

“Palau and Fiji’s launch of the Alliance of Countries for a Deep-Sea Mining Moratorium during the UN Ocean Conference at Lisbon, was the political icebreaker that catalyzed the global political movement. By all accounts, the launch was the most popular event and deep-sea mining the hottest topic of the conference. I was on the door as the venue filled and security began restricting access. It quickly became like a crowd surge at a popular nightclub... ‘Please we are from the German government’, ‘I am representing the New Zealand Ambassador’. One by one we found seats for VIPs, but still a crowd of 100+ were outside. Samoa joined the Alliance from the floor that day and President Macron called for an outright ban later in the week. Quite a crazy moment to be a part of, and a turning point of the campaign.”

PHIL MCCABE

ALLIANCE OF COUNTRIES

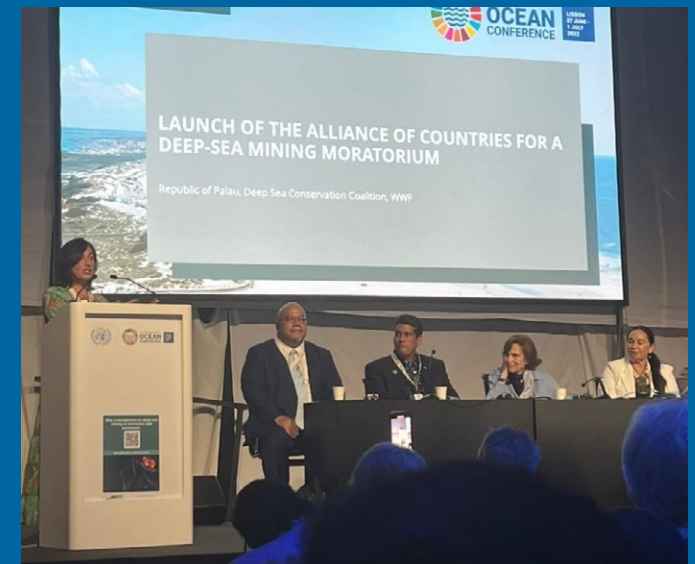
In June 2022, the Alliance of Countries for a Deep-Sea Mining Moratorium was launched at an event co-hosted by Palau, the DSCC, and WWF at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

MEMORY “We are immensely thankful for the partnership with the DSCC, which has linked Palau with nations sharing our vision, amplifying our collective voice to protect our oceans and secure a sustainable future for all humankind. The coalition’s unwavering commitment and dedication to work with us and other stakeholders towards the long-term protection of the high seas is truly inspirational.”

H.E. SURANGEL WHIPPS JR., PRESIDENT OF PALAU

MEMORY “As a youth participant at the event, alongside many other vibrant members of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance Youth community, I was filled with excitement to witness influential leaders such as the President of Palau advocating for a pause in deep-sea mining activities. We, the younger generation, recognize that the decisions made today will directly impact our future, and we implore decision-makers to prioritize the well-being of our oceans and planet. Witnessing collaborative efforts from nations like Fiji and Samoa to #DefendTheDeep was truly inspiring, and I harbored hope that more nations would unite and take proactive measures to safeguard our planet’s invaluable resources.”

DANIEL CÁCERES BARTRA



JUNE 2022

DEEP-SEA MINING MORATORIUM

Governments launch alliance at UN Ocean Conference

JUNE 2022

UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE

Declares deep-sea mining not consistent with Blue Economy

JUNE 2022

NEW ZEALAND PETITION

35,000 support deep-sea mining ban

AUGUST 2022

OUTLAW OCEAN MURALS

Street art in NYC and the DSCC demands deep-sea protection at UNGA

STORY

“This event was years in the making. One after another, political leaders who we thought would be the first to champion a pause on the rush to launch a highly speculative and potentially massively destructive new industry in the deep sea fell by the wayside. But, by early 2022, President Whipps of Palau had heard enough. His team reached out to us to collaborate on organizing an event at the Lisbon UN Ocean Conference in June 2022, to launch an alliance of countries calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

When at last the day arrived, the feeling in the hall was electric. It was a vast tent adjacent to the main facility, with seating for 150. On the stage were some of the world’s most powerful voices on this issue – the President himself, Dr Sylvia Earle, Aotearoa New Zealand MP Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, and Fiji’s Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama who, inspired by Palau’s courage and the case for a precautionary approach,

was there to commit Fiji to the new alliance. The room filled quickly with an equally illustrious audience, comprising government, science and civil society leaders from around the world. Outside, many more who came to bear witness to a historic moment were turned away at the door for lack of space.

Under the expert guidance of moderator Taholo Kami, the event came to life. The panelists spoke and the alliance was launched to a standing ovation. Then, from the floor, the Government of Samoa joined as the third member of the alliance, and passionate endorsements were made by Members of Parliament from France and Peru. And then it was my turn to give the closing address, with an unmistakable sense of being part of a turning point for the health of the deep ocean, our planet’s beating blue heart.”

SIAN OWEN



NOVEMBER 2022
CLIMATE COP27

Spotlights deep-sea mining & bottom trawling as climate hazards

NOVEMBER 2022
FRANCE BACKS DEEP-SEA MINING BAN

President Macron’s COP27 announcement

DECEMBER 2022
UNGA 77/118

Calls for protecting all biodiversity from deep-sea fishing

RECOLLECTION

“The DSCC Seamounts campaign is working to close the deal that launched the DSCC 20 years ago; the protection of seamounts and the vulnerable deep sea from bottom trawling. Since 2004, the DSCC has campaigned and advocated for seamount and vulnerable marine ecosystem protection goals to be woven into the scientific assessments, conservation measures, and resolutions of governments, RFMOs, and the UN. That sustained ability to reach into science, fisheries policy, and multilateral dialogue around the world, and change its course for the better, defines the DSCC seamounts campaign of 2024. That the international community is today on the cusp of ending bottom trawling on seamounts on the high seas is testimony to the first generation of DSCC ambition and determination.”

BRONWEN GOLDER

UNGA 77/118

In December 2022, the UNGA adopted Resolution 77/118, which reaffirmed the need to protect deep-sea ecosystems and set a high bar for States and RFMOs to comply.

MEMORY “In 2022, the UNGA reaffirmed and strengthened its resolution to prevent harm to deep-sea life from bottom trawling. While in New York, we drew attention to the issue with a mural in The Bronx by US street artist Eric Orr and New York-based Kiwi artist Sally Penn. Pressure also came on New Zealand, one of only a handful of countries still bottom trawling seamounts in the high seas, through a story on the evening TV news. An active coalition of the DSCC and 7 member NGOs is now working together in Aotearoa to end destructive bottom trawling on seamounts and other hotspots of deep-sea life.”

KARLI THOMAS



DECEMBER 2022 1ST DEEP DAY

Reaches 2.9 million people in 40 countries

DECEMBER 2022 BIODIVERSITY COP15

Calls on ISA to prevent harm to biodiversity
8 Ministers debate call for a moratorium

DECEMBER 2022 SAY NO TO DEEP-SEA MINING

+230,000 people sign global petition

MARCH 2023 HIGH SEAS TREATY AGREED

Binding deal to protect high seas life

STORY

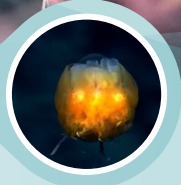
“In 2022, the UNGA raised the bar on actions required of States and RFMOs by calling for ‘overcoming barriers’ to the implementation of previous UNGA resolutions and to protect all species and biodiversity associated with deep-sea vulnerable marine ecosystems, not only so-called ‘VME indicator species’. This was an important reaffirmation of the rationale behind UNGA’s calls for action in the first place over 20 years ago. Some high seas fishing nations have been arguing that their interpretation of the UNGA resolutions meant that they only had to protect a certain percentage of deep-sea ecosystems and allow trawling on others, such as deepwater coral ecosystems, without causing ‘significant adverse impacts’. The UNGA fisheries resolution in 2022 corrected this misinterpretation with its call to protect biodiversity broadly in the deep sea. It also calls for enhancing the resilience of deep-sea ecosystems from the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change. I had the opportunity to work with delegations involved in the negotiations at the time and was pleased to see that many of the best

proposals were adopted in the end, in spite of opposition from some countries. Moreover, it is important to recognize that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2019 warned that a million species are at risk of extinction, many within the next few decades. This is a mind-boggling number. The 2022 UNGA resolution aligns with the increasing commitments by countries to ‘halt and reverse’ the drivers of biodiversity loss, including the commitment to prevent harm to biodiversity from deep-sea mining adopted by the meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal in December 2022. Bottom trawling on seamounts is one such driver and deep-sea mining, if permitted to occur, would be another; it is important that the efforts by the international community to prevent biodiversity loss from deep-sea trawling and deep-sea mining on our global ocean commons, and allow these ecosystems an opportunity to recover, regenerate and thrive, ultimately succeeds.”

MATTHEW GIANNI



© NOAA



JULY 2023

ISA REFUSES TO ADOPT REGULATIONS DESPITE NAURU TRIGGERING 2-YEAR LOOPHOLE IN 2021

Civil society presence boosts transparency and resistance to mining

DECEMBER 2023 24 STATES SUPPORT

A moratorium, pause or ban on deep-sea mining

APRIL 2024 DSCC TURNS 20!

With 120 member organizations and growing
LOTS MORE TO COME!

END WORD

We are honored to celebrate 20 years of deep-sea advocacy alongside the incredible contributors to this beautiful book, and with all of our partners, supporters and the 120 DSCC members around the world.

The milestones and memories shared in these pages tell a powerful story of how genuine teamwork, deep expertise, and relentless persistence can make a difference. Together we have succeeded in bringing the deep sea up into the light of global consciousness and up onto the high political table where it belongs, and inspired a global movement dedicated to defending the deep. Because we all know there is no sustainable future without a healthy deep sea.

Our coalition has come a long way since 2004. The DSCC's presence is now felt everywhere decisions and actions that affect the deep sea are taking place. From UN conferences to national parliaments, from negotiations at the International Seabed Authority to debates at RFMOs and onboard scientific voyages to the deep seabed itself – the DSCC is there. And we make sure the millions of people who care about the deep ocean are there with us, through our iconic – and sometimes comic – campaigns and communications.

Now the DSCC is ready to embark on the next phase of our mission and to deliver our two key goals: to protect seamounts from the irreversible damage caused by bottom trawling and to stop deep-sea mining before it starts. With new threats and challenges on the horizon, our work to defend the deep is just getting started.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our first two decades protecting deep-sea life.

Happy 20th Birthday DSCC!

DSCC'S DIRECTOR AND BOARD



SIAN OWEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LANCE MORGAN
CHAIR



SUSANNA FULLER
TREASURER



SEBASTIÁN LOSADA
SECRETARY



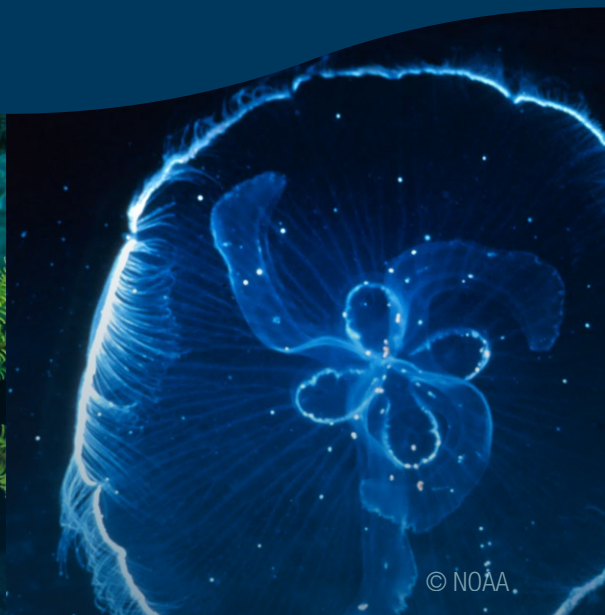
DSCC MEMBERS

AbibiNsroma Foundation
 Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC)
 APECE - Portuguese Association for the Study and Conservation of Elasmobranchs
 Asociación Argentina de Capitanes, Patrones y Pilotos de Pesca (Argentinean Fishing Captains Association)
 Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
 Australian Conservation Foundation
 Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
 Bantay Kita
 Beneath The Waves
 Biological Conservation Research Foundation (BICREF)
 BirdLife International
 BLOOM Association
 Blue Climate Initiative
 Blue Marine Foundation
 CeDePesca
 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
 Centro de Conservación Cetacea (CCC)
 Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental
 Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES)
 Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)
 Conservation International
 David Suzuki Foundation
 Deep Sea Mining Campaign
 DEEPWAVE
 DEPANA
 Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz
 Divers Alert Network Europe
 Earthjustice
 Earthworks

ecOceanica
 Ecoceanos
 Ecologistas en Acción
 Ecology Action Centre
 Endangered Species Foundation
 Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand, Inc, (ECO)
 Environmental Justice Foundation
 Fauna & Flora International
 Fisheries Secretariat
 Forest and Bird
 Friends of the Earth International
 Fundación Cethus
 Fundación Malpelo y otros ecosistemas marinos
 GEOTA – Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente
 German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
 Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine e.V.
 Global Ocean Trust
 GlobalChoices
 Goa Foundation
 Greenpeace International
 Groupe d'Étude des Mammifères Marins' - G.E.M.M
 Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA)
 Inland Ocean Coalition
 Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas (ICB)
 International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
 International Fund for Animal Welfare, Latin America (IFAW Latin America)
 International Ocean Institute
 International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO)

International Wildlife Coalition - (IWC/BRASIL)
 Jamaica Environment Trust
 Jatun Sacha Foundation
 Kiwis Against Seabed Mining
 Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM)
 KYMA sea conservation & research
 Ledunfly Philanthropy
 Living Oceans Society
 LPN - Liga para a Protecção da Natureza
 MarBrasil
 Marevivo
 Marinas Guardian
 Marine Conservation Institute
 Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
 Marine Research Foundation
 MarViva
 Mineral Inheritors Rights Association (MIRA)
 National Fisherworkers' Forum
 Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
 Nederlandse Elasmobranchen Vereniging (NEV)
 Nekton Foundation
 Ocean Born Foundation
 Ocean Conservancy
 Ocean Futures Society
 Oceana
 OceanCare
 Oceans North
 Only One
 Organización Conservación de Cetáceos (OCC)
 Orissa Marine Resource Conservation Consortium (OMRCC)
 Our Seas Our Future
 Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC)
 Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
 Pelagos Okeanos
 Planet Tracker
 PONG-Pesca - Portuguese Platform of NGOs on Fisheries
 Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA)
 ProNaturaleza
 Quercus
 RISE UP
 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 Sacharuna Foundation
 Save Our Seas (SOS)
 Sciaena - Marine Sciences and Cooperation
 Seas at Risk
 Sharklife Conservation Group
 SHARKPROJECT
 Sociedad peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)
 SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds
 SpeSeas
 Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)
 TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary
 The Ocean Foundation
 The Oxygen Project
 The Pew Charitable Trusts
 Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
 WeMove Europe
 Whale and Dolphin Conservation
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 Women4Oceans
 World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
 WWF
 Youth and Environment Europe



20 deep sea
conservation coalition 
years defending the deep