[Workshop on the Development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan for the Area of the Northwest Pacific - International Seabed Authority (isa.org.jm)]

Overview

The International Seabed Authority (ISA), in collaboration with Japan, convened a workshop on the development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the Area of the Northwest Pacific in Tokyo, Japan, from 19 February to 23 February 2024.

The workshop aimed to:

- review and synthesise newly available scientific data and information related to the biological, oceanographical and geological aspects of the marine environment in the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

The contractors presented new data that was discussed in the light of what was known from the previous workshop. The team from Duke University gave support to the workshop, and Cherisse Du Preez was also using the new data to map on the seafloor and try to estimate where the nodules could be.

- validate and refine the design of potential area-based management tools (ABMTs) identified in the previous online workshop[1], and review and further improve the scientific rationale for the identification of such potential ABMTs based on agreed scientific criteria;

Here, with the new data, and with the maps of the Duke team, we discussed area by area, and the inclusion or grouping of new areas, taking in mind the representative of all the potential habitats. The concept must be discussed here, the APEI one. The areas and sites in need of protection were discussed as a way to refine areas that were near the contract blocks, and was asked that in the future areas identified as SNIP and AINP be the relinquished blocks. No decision was made, just propositions to be thought by each contractor.

- drawing on the results from the quantitative modelling of cumulative impacts from the previous online workshop, determine ecosystem components, which may be at a high risk from future potential exploitation activities and cumulative impacts, and on this basis, appropriate management approaches for addressing such impacts, including non-spatial measures; and

I was invited to be the rapporteur of this section, which as usual was more difficult to discuss, due to its complexity. There was consensus on not changing the structure of the model, because it basically reflects the seamount ecosystem, and any change will affect all the model's components. Then we focus on which nodes are directly impacted by each pressure. Since everyone was OK with the model structure, we began by reviewing the pressures and which nodes they directly affect.

- discuss priorities for future, regional-scale monitoring and research.

All the participants discussed here, and notes were made to talk with contractors about the seamounts and guyots that presented shallow depths and should be included in

the REMP to maintain representativity and due to special habitats but had contracts in it. A workshop report will be available later in the year.

Participants
Ana Colaço

DOSI Actions
I made several technical interventions in regards to ecological aspects from the contractors' presentations, made inputs in both work groups of ABMT and cumulative impacts modelling. I also asked the native English speakers to speak slower during their interventions, since most of the participants were non-native. I was a rapporteur of the Cumulative impacts modelling group of seamounts. All the interventions were appreciated and were done taking into account the DOSI principles.

Annexes
NA