



DSCC/WWF/Greenpeace joint intervention
ISA Council discussion on the subject of the election of members of the LTC

22 July 2015

We are encouraged to hear many delegations state the need for putting forward Independent, qualified experts as candidates for election to the LTC next year; candidates without a conflict of interest. We note in para 12 of ISBA/21/C/6 that the current composition of the LTC includes only two members with expertise in marine environmental matters. We understand that one or both may step down from the LTC because they will have served two terms and no longer qualify for reelection.

Given the importance of ensuring that effective provisions for the protection and preservation of the marine environment are incorporated into the drafting the exploration regulations, there is an urgent need for Council members to put forward qualified deep-sea biologists as candidates to serve on the LTC. In addition, we would recommend that members also put forward marine policy experts and ocean economists as candidates. Finally, we note that in paragraph 11 of the report the LTC indicated that it seeks expertise from outside the membership of the LTC when necessary.

We hope that the LTC will continue to do so in regard to environmental matters and make use of the expertise, for example, of INDEEP, an international network of deep-sea scientists which in fact the Secretariat has worked with in the past, or the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative which my colleague from IUCN described in her intervention to the Assembly earlier today.