

Why a moratorium on deep-sea mining is necessary and achievable

What are the risks?

Deep-sea mining is a nascent industry that threatens the health of our ocean, the blue heart of our planet. Speculators seek to strip-mine the fragile deep for minerals, which would result in an irreversible loss of biodiversity and other benefits to humanity, including future medicines. The industry would also threaten our planet's largest carbon sink at a time of global climate emergency.

Over 600 science and policy experts have urged that the industry be paused until robust scientific information has been obtained to allow us to make better-informed decisions as to whether mining can be authorized without damaging the marine environment.

great are growing across a broad spectrum of society, and momentum continues to build for a moratorium - an official global pause unless and until key conditions have been met.

Industry leaders including Google, Samsung, BMW, Volkswagen and Volvo as well as financial institutions, fisheries groups, civil society, and communities across the Pacific are all calling for a halt to the emerging industry.

In September 2021, the IUCN World Conservation Congress passed a motion calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining with overwhelming support from both governmental bodies (82%) and civil society (95%).

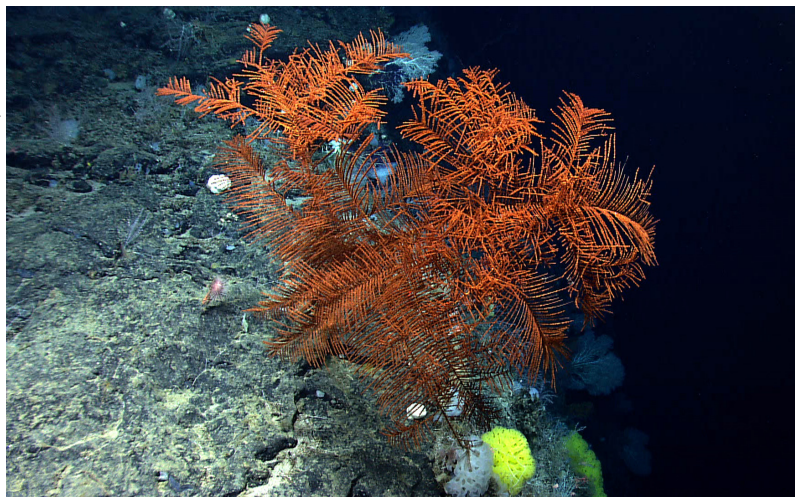
The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative also recently highlighted that the financing of deep-sea mining activities is not compatible with principles of the Sustainable Blue Economy.

A brighter future for people and planet

It is time for leaders to put words into action and stop the rush to open the deep sea to a new frontier of industrial extraction. Instead, we need to prioritize the health of ecosystems that we all rely on and take good care of our global commons.

Due to risks associated with deep-sea mining, a growing number of countries are calling for a ban, moratorium or pause on the industry. Countries that have publicly announced their support for a moratorium or pause include: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Panama, Palau, Samoa and Spain. At UNFCCC COP27, President Emmanuel Macron called for a ban on the industry.

It is clearer than ever that we need to be more in balance with nature and make better, smarter use of our resources, rather than causing irreversible damage to the health of our ocean.



Okeanos Explorer/NOAA

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is seeking to develop regulations that if approved and adopted, could see commercial mining begin by July 2023. However, concerns have been raised that the ISA is not fit for its purpose.

Why is deep-sea mining unnecessary?

Would-be miners claim that deep-sea minerals are required for batteries for smart technology. But the battery industry is moving rapidly in a different direction. A new generation of batteries that either reuses these metals or does not use them at all is already entering the market.

Moreover, terrestrial supplies of these metals will still be vital as the circular economy develops. Although there are clearly numerous issues with terrestrial mining, part of the solution is to create a well governed land-based mining sector, which is the request of many local communities who depend on it for their income and livelihoods

Momentum for a moratorium

There is a serious lack of social license for the push to exploit the Common Heritage of humankind. Concerns that the risks associated with deep-sea mining are too

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About the DSCC

The DSCC is made up of over 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), fishers organizations and law and policy institutes, all committed to protecting the deep sea.

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You can find our full set of factsheets on deep-sea mining at <https://bit.ly/3t3SNU3>