MARCHA AZUL PELO CLIMA
The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) was founded in 2004 to address the need to prevent damage to deep-sea ecosystems and the depletion of deep-sea species on the high seas from bottom trawling and other forms of deep-sea fishing. 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.
Letter from the Board

2022 was an exciting and impactful year for the DSCC. Our campaigns to combat threats to life in the deep sea gathered steam, we increased our capacity to influence key global and regional processes and mobilize new audiences, and our coalition passed the 100-member milestone. There’s been much to celebrate as we work together to ensure the health and long-term resilience of the deep sea.

This was the year the world really began to wake up to the threat of deep-sea mining, and the movement to stop this destructive industry before it starts gained traction across the globe. From hosting events at major ocean conferences, to direct advocacy targeting heads of state and ministers, public petitions, media campaigns, and participating at every meeting of the International Seabed Authority, the DSCC stepped up its campaign to build momentum for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. One by one, governments across the Pacific, Europe and the Americas started declaring their support for a pause or ban, along with a growing number of companies, financial institutions, scientists, and citizens around the world.

In 2022, the imminent threat of deep-sea mining became a major international news story. The DSCC and our member organizations helped shine a spotlight on this issue at important political moments and mobilized social media to reach new audiences. And the more people learned about deep-sea mining, the bigger the wave of resistance became. We are proud of the key role the DSCC is playing in building this wave and are now determined to make 2023 the year the world unites to hit the brakes on deep-sea mining.

As our campaigns to address current threats to deep-sea biodiversity mature and succeed, we took some time in late 2022 to start to better understand new threats, including the potential for carbon capture and storage in deep ocean areas. We will continue to scope this work into 2023.

Destroying vulnerable deep-sea life – whether by bottom fishing or deep-sea mining – is incompatible with global commitments to address the climate and biodiversity crises. The DSCC has never been more motivated or better positioned to help make sure these commitments are honoured and the precious living resources of the deep sea are protected.

Lance Morgan, Chair

Susanna Fuller, Treasurer

Sebastian Losada, Secretary
The DSCC and partners called on world leaders to “Listen to the Ocean” and stop deep-sea mining at the One Ocean Summit in February.

In March, the DSCC launched the International Seabed Authority (ISA) negotiations tracker.

In May, the DSCC welcomed our 100th member organization.

In June, the Alliance of Countries for a deep-sea mining Moratorium is launched at an event co-hosted by Palau, the DSCC, and WWF at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

In June, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative reported that financing deep-sea mining activities is not consistent with Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles.

In July, the Federated States of Micronesia became the first nation to suggest a moratorium on deep-sea mining at ISA negotiations; Chile, Costa Rica and Spain all called for a “precautionary pause”.

The Defend the Deep mural series from February in New Zealand and Outlaw Ocean Mural Project in New York in August brought our campaign to protect deep-sea species into the streets.

In November, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) confirmed closure of all seamounts to bottom trawling.

In New Zealand more than 80,000 people signed a petition calling for a ban on bottom trawling on seamounts – a position shared by nearly 80% of New Zealanders.

In November, the DSCC spotlighted the deep sea as a carbon sink and deep-sea mining and deep-sea bottom trawling as climate hazards at 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP27).

In November, President Macron used his opening speech at UNFCCC COP27 to announce France’s support for a deep-sea mining ban – bringing the number of States calling for a ban or pause to 12.

The DSCC’s priority messages at the UNGA Fisheries Review were reflected in the UNGA Resolution adopted in December.

In December, the DSCC coordinated the first ever Deep Day, reaching an audience of 2.9 million across 40 countries via Twitter and Instagram.

In 2022, over 230,000 people signed the Say No to Deep-Sea Mining petition co-organized by the DSCC.

In December, UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) adopted a decision on marine and coastal biodiversity calling for the ISA to better understand the risks and ensure that no harm to marine life and the environment would occur, before permitting deep-sea mining. Ministers from eight governments discussed joint efforts toward a precautionary pause or moratorium.
A Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining

Deep-sea mining, if permitted to go ahead, would result in an irreversible loss of biodiversity and potentially impact our planet’s largest carbon sink at a time of global climate emergency. Deep-sea mining is therefore incompatible with the DSCC’s mission to reduce key threats to life in the deep sea and safeguard deep-sea ecosystems for the benefit of humanity.

Despite the risks deep-sea mining poses, the ISA is seeking to develop regulations that could see commercial mining begin by July 2023.

The DSCC’s position – recalling IUCN Resolution 122 – is that there should be a moratorium on: deep-sea mining in international waters; the adoption of seabed mining regulations for exploitation; and the issuing of exploitation and new exploration contracts.

Throughout 2022 we helped to build a wave of resistance to deep-sea mining through advocacy and campaigning, and by stepping up our public outreach. By the end of the year, 12 countries had announced their support for a moratorium, a precautionary pause, or a ban on deep-sea mining, along with 15 major companies, eight financial institutions, 251 parliamentarians, and over 700 science and policy experts from more than 40 countries.

Building Momentum for a Moratorium

From June to December, 12 countries took positions against deep-sea mining in international waters. This included the Moratorium Alliance of Palau, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia and Samoa; support for a moratorium by New Zealand; calls for a precautionary pause from Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Panama and Spain; and the announcement of a ban on deep-sea mining by France.

The DSCC and our member organizations are at the forefront of this growing movement, building momentum towards a moratorium through extensive advocacy, campaigns, petitions and demonstrations in multiple countries and at key political moments throughout the year.

Pacific

The Pacific is currently the front line of prospective deep-sea mining and Pacific Island nations are increasingly recognizing the environmental, social, cultural, economic and geopolitical risks. In March, Pacific Elders’ Voice, a group of eight prominent former Pacific Island leaders, issued a statement calling for a halt to seabed mining. In April, the Pacific Parliamentarians’ Alliance on Deep Sea Mining was launched, warning that, “Pacific states are being used as a testing ground in this new frontier industry.” The next day, Tuvalu announced that they had rescinded their ISA sponsorship of Circular Metals Tuvalu’s application for an exploration contract.

Another major breakthrough came in June, with the launch of the Alliance of Countries for a deep-sea mining Moratorium. Towards the end of the year, New Caledonia declared a moratorium on deep-sea mining in their vast EEZ, and the French Polynesian Assembly adopted a formal declaration for a moratorium, with their Minister for Marine Resources, saying: “We need to convince our cousins of the Pacific to stop this craziness.”
In June, the DSCC, Greenpeace Aotearoa, and ECO NZ hosted a webinar to alert the New Zealand Government to the “threat of deep-sea mining in the Pacific and international waters” and delivered a petition signed by over 35,000 New Zealanders to Prime Minister Ardern calling for an immediate ban on deep-sea mining in Aotearoa’s waters. New Zealand declared its support for a moratorium just in time for the October/November ISA meetings.

Europe
In April, Spain took an important first step by adopting a Royal Decree that effectively endorsed a moratorium on deep-sea mining. By July, this pressure had yielded an official call for a “precautionary pause” on deep-sea mining at the ISA. In July, the European Investment Bank included deep-sea mining in their list of excluded activities and sectors, making them the first public finance body to do so. Also in July, after hosting the UN Ocean Conference, Portugal’s Minister of the Economy and Sea declared that deep-sea mining is “out of the question”. On 6 October, the European Parliament passed a Resolution on the Momentum for the Ocean that: “Reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to support an international moratorium on deep seabed mining.”

A Declaration asking the French Government to take concrete action to stop deep-sea mining in October helped trigger the announcement by President Macron calling for a ban on deep-sea mining at the UNFCCC Global Fishing Watch Climate Summit in November – a watershed moment that confirmed 2022’s political shift towards prioritizing ocean protection over exploitation.

Latin America
The DSCC supported the work of member organization, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), as they led the regional charge of resistance to deep-sea mining through outreach activities aimed at informing the public and decision-makers about the risks of deep-sea mining and the role of the ISA. Regional momentum picked up throughout the year, starting with Chile’s call for a 15-year moratorium on deep-sea mining in international waters at the UN in June. Costa Rica and Ecuador joined with calls for a precautionary pause on deep-sea mining at the ISA meeting in July, followed by Panamá on the first day of the ISA meetings in October.

North America
Canadian groups worked to magnify political and public engagement on the issue by joining together to submit a parliamentary petition with over 4,000 signatures in March. They followed this in April with a magazine article decrying Canada’s lack of leadership on deep-sea mining. The criticism focused on Canada’s absence from the global conversation and in particular their failure to make submissions to the ISA. Targeted advocacy helped lead to the New Democratic Party of Canada releasing a party-wide statement condemning deep-sea mining as well as a question in the House of Commons on Canada’s position on deep-sea mining. This work resulted in a significant increase in engagement at the ISA, with a multi-person delegation and cross departmental coordination on the issue.

In the United States, as a result of a letter signed by DSCC members and other NGOs asking President Biden to support a moratorium, the State Department held its first public consultation on deep-sea mining in preparation for the March ISA meeting. In California, we worked with the Surfrider Foundation and Monterey Bay Aquarium to support the California Seabed Mining Prevention Act, which the Governor signed into law in September.

Deep-sea mining, if permitted to go ahead, would result in an irreversible loss of biodiversity and potentially impact our planet’s largest carbon sink at a time of global climate emergency.
Putting on the Pressure at the ISA

At the ISA meetings in March/April, the threat of deep-sea mining hung over the ocean, although Member States started waking up to the dangers and making stronger interventions. We launched the ISA negotiations tracker to shine a light on negotiations, providing a one-stop shop for following ISA meetings and keeping track of government positions. The tracker proved to be an invaluable tool for DSCC members, ISA delegates, and journalists throughout this critical year.

By July/August, the tide was turning and coverage of the negotiations in the media ramped up around the world. The Federated States of Micronesia became the first nation to raise the prospect of a moratorium on deep-sea mining during ISA negotiations. Chile, Costa Rica and Spain all called for a “precautionary pause” and Ecuador supported Chile’s proposal to postpone the timeline. Several countries also pushed back against the ‘two-year loophole”, including France and The Netherlands. By the time the October/November meeting closed there were significant blocks of resistance in the Pacific, Latin America and Europe, and the backlash against deep-sea mining was at an all-time high.

2022 also highlighted serious concerns over the ISA’s transparency and inclusivity amid allegations of misconduct in articles by the New York Times, the LA Times, and The Guardian. The DSCC called on States to take action to investigate and reform the ISA, to make it fit for purpose to safeguard our deep ocean commons. Ahead of the July/August meeting, the DSCC objected to Observer participation restrictions set by the Secretariat in a letter to the ISA. Together with opposition expressed by States, this helped to secure an allowance for hybrid participation. We also sent a letter to the acting president to express objections to the way the July meeting was conducted.

In September, the DSCC responded urgently when the news broke that the ISA had granted permission for Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., a subsidiary of The Metals Company (TMC), to proceed with commercial scale test mining in the Clarion Clipperton Zone of the Pacific. This happened in spite of serious concerns raised by scientists, NGOs and governments, and with no opportunity to review the decision. We sent a letter of concern to the ISA, requesting that they rescind their permission. The ISA nonetheless allowed this first full test-mine to proceed.

Throughout the 2022 ISA meetings, the increased capacity of the DSCC’s deep-sea mining campaign team allowed us to better support the growing set of DSCC member delegations attending. We provided support and coordination for members, along with communications toolkits that helped create a united position and increased public awareness of the threat of deep-sea mining.

Advocacy at Key Ocean Events

2022 was called the “Ocean Super Year” due to the large number of important ocean-related conferences and opportunities. The DSCC team brought the deep sea to these political fora to engage a wide range of stakeholders and create powerful deep-sea mining moratorium moments. To kick off the year, we participated at the One Ocean Summit in Brest, France, in February, where we joined members and partners in hitting the streets to call on world leaders to “Listen to the Ocean” and stop deep-sea mining. Together with 18 other NGOs, we published an open letter to leaders in Le Monde calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. As a result of coordinated outreach, deep-sea mining got more press attention than any other issue at the Summit.
In May, the DSCC joined member organizations to highlight deep-sea mining at the Blue Climate Summit in French Polynesia. On 8 June, World Ocean Day, the DSCC called on leaders to show political courage and press pause on deep-sea mining in a panel discussion with Spain’s Vice-President and the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson. Also in June the UNEP Finance Initiative in the publication of a briefing paper on Harmful marine extractives: Deep-Sea Mining that sends a clear message to the global finance community that financing deep-sea mining activities is not consistent with Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles.

Momentum for a moratorium skyrocketed as we helped make deep-sea mining the talk of the town at the June UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, culminating with French President Emmanuel Macron calling for a “legal framework to stop deep-sea mining on the high seas”. On 28 June, the DSCC and WWF supported the Government of Palau at an official side event to launch the Alliance of Countries Calling for a Deep-Sea Mining Moratorium. This was a critically important moment for the campaign as it was the first time a government made this official call. On the same day, parliamentary ocean champions from France and Vanuatu launched the Global Parliamentary Declaration Calling for a Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining. Progress continued during the UNGA Leaders Week in New York in September, where the DSCC joined Palau in bringing like-minded States together.

At the UNFCCC COP27 in November, deep-sea mining hit the headlines from the very start thanks to President Macron calling for a total ban in his opening speech. The DSCC held two events to drive home the message about the links between a healthy deep sea and a healthy climate. The first, co-hosted with the Government of Chile, highlighted deep-sea mining as a climate hazard. The next day we joined the Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu and Peru, to spotlight the potential impacts of deep-sea mining on the deep sea as a carbon sink. The DSCC’s Director also joined a live panel broadcast from the Nature Pavilion’s Nature Newsroom.

To round out the year, the DSCC and our members made sure the deep sea rose to the forefront at the long awaited CBD COP15 in December. We supported a ministerial level event alongside Chile, Costa Rica, France, Germany, New Zealand, Palau and Vanuatu, as well as IUCN, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, and Conservation International, to gather like-minded States under an umbrella partnership for deep-sea protection. The DSCC also co-organized a hybrid event entitled: “Stopping Deep Sea Mining: A unique opportunity to avoid an ocean catastrophe.”

Below: A brittle star and coral are picked up by ROV Subastian’s manipulator arm, along with the piece of deep-sea rock they are inhabiting. Taking the rock along with the accompanying organisms allows the scientists to study whether certain organisms prefer certain substrates.

Momentum for a moratorium skyrocketed as we helped make deep-sea mining the talk of the town at the June UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.
Deep-Sea Fisheries: Protecting Seamounts from Bottom Trawling

The DSCC’s primary goal regarding deep-sea fisheries on the high seas is to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the deep sea from destruction caused by bottom trawling. To support this goal, throughout 2022 we pursued engagement and advocacy across key institutions and geographies to secure progress towards phasing out bottom trawling on seamounts and other topographical features in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Our Global Seamounts team actively participated in deep-sea bottom trawling dialogues and resolution drafting at the UNGA different RFMOs, and the European Commission to call for:

1. A phase-out of bottom trawling on seamounts and other topographical features in ABNJ;
2. States and RFMOs to take measures to provide for the recovery of VMEs, in keeping with multiple UNGA Resolutions, targets, Leaders’ Pledges, and SDG 14;
3. VMEs to be recognized as the totality of populations of species associated with VMEs, not simply species that are identified as members of an “indicator taxonomic group”.

To prepare for the 2022 UNGA Review of Deep-Sea Fisheries, and inform advocacy at RFMO and State level, the DSCC worked in partnership with the Marine Conservation Institute, Starboard, and Global Fishing Watch to identify and map vessels that are either authorized to bottom trawl or reported as having bottom impact on seamounts in ABNJ. Having identified fewer than 20 vessels from half a dozen States, we were well placed to magnify the “outlier” status of the remaining sponsoring States – such as New Zealand, Japan, and the Cook Islands – and send a strong message that bottom trawling on the high seas is unnecessary, unwelcome and irresponsible.

Armed with this new data, the DSCC can track the engagement of States and vessels in bottom trawling on seamounts in ABNJ – and shine a light on the outliers. Securing the withdrawal of those final vessels will require a global effort, but now there is growing scientific, political, and policy momentum behind this goal. The DSCC is confident that, by connecting and magnifying...
UNGA Resolutions, RFMO actions, and outlier activities, we can secure an end to bottom trawling on seamounts in ABNJ by mid-2024.

UNGA Review of Deep-Sea Fisheries

The 2022 UNGA Review of Deep-Sea Fisheries on the high seas took place in November and assessed the extent to which high seas fishing nations and RFMOs are implementing the UNGA deep-sea fishing and biodiversity Resolutions, with a focus on protecting VMEs from significant adverse impacts (SAIs). Ahead of the Review, the DSCC, member organizations, and science partners participated at a UNGA Bottom Trawling Workshop to present the findings of our independent review of the status of deep-sea fishing on the high seas and help inform the discussions and Resolution in November. The workshop report references key points made by the DSCC, including calls for the closure of seamounts to bottom fishing.

Key Regions and Outlier States

In 2022, the DSCC maintained its focus on key RFMOs and outlier States to target the last remaining deep sea bottom trawl activity in the high seas and advocate that deep-sea fishing should only take place in compliance with rigorous ecosystem protection criteria. As NAFO confirmed the closure of all seamounts within the Regulatory Area to bottom fishing in 2022, our attention turned to securing similar seamount protections in other regions. Critical to continued success is the promotion of the science-based position that all seamounts are VMEs and the UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution calls for the protection of all species associated with deep-sea VMEs. The positive actions taken recently by some RFMOs and the European Union (EU) are tangible evidence of the impact of the deep sea science and advocacy that the DSCC have been engaging in over the past year.
In 2022, the DSCC maintained its focus on key RFMOs and outlier States to target the last remaining deep-sea bottom trawl activity in the high seas and advocate that deep-sea fishing should only take place in compliance with rigorous ecosystem protection criteria.

**South Pacific**

Aotearoa New Zealand is the only country still engaging in bottom trawling in the South Pacific. During 2022, the DSCC informed Parliamentary and official Government processes, including the Environment Select Committee report to Parliament and the Government’s EEZ Benthic Forum. Public opinion is shifting decisively against bottom trawling as people learn about the damage it causes and realize the extent to which New Zealand is isolated in its position. These are both messages emphasized in our outreach. More than 80,000 people signed a petition calling for bottom trawling to be banned on all seamounts, and recent polling shows that nearly 80% of New Zealanders support this stance. In addition, the DSCC was active in South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation’s (SPRFMO) consideration of fishing survey proposals across the Nazca area of the eastern Pacific, which has been identified as a priority candidate for a high seas marine protected area (MPA). The DSCC positioned itself as a key voice in the ongoing discussions over this area at a workshop hosted by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in late 2022.

The evolution of the DSCC Global Seamounts campaign in 2022, and the increased alignment of our national, regional, and global advocacy and communications, was evident at the UNGA Bottom Trawling Workshop in New York in August. We internationalized our campaign and put New Zealand under the spotlight by collaborating on a New York street mural with the Outlaw Ocean Mural Project featuring a blobfish and bubblegum coral, two species at risk from deep-sea trawling. We continue to ramp up the pressure to stop the Government from issuing high seas permits to bottom trawlers and to secure the phase-out of bottom trawling both in New Zealand’s EEZ and in international waters.

**North Pacific**

Our goal at the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) is to end the bottom trawling on the Northwest Hawaiian Ridge and Emperor Seamounts by 2023/2024. Reporting to the NPFC since 2019 shows that just one bottom trawl vessel is active on the Northwest Hawaiian Ridge and Emperor Seamounts area, so in 2022 we partnered with the Pew Charitable Trusts and Blue Nature Alliance to shape a strategy to secure the withdrawal of that vessel from the area.

**South Indian Ocean**

The DSCC attended all South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) meetings held in 2022. As the only conservation NGO to regularly attend these gatherings, our goal is for SIOFA to adopt effective regulations for the management of bottom fisheries to protect seamounts and other deep-sea VMEs. In 2022 we also initiated work on scientific papers and made targeted interventions on the highly biodiverse Saya de Malha bank. Two Cook Island vessels (with Japanese and New Zealand ownership interests) are currently bottom trawling on seamounts in the SIOFA region, and Australia continues to hold permit authorizations to undertake bottom trawling. Following work by the DSCC, in 2022 SIOFA adopted a conservation and management measure (CMM) on mitigation of bycatch and closed five areas to fisheries to protect VMEs. As this CMM only provides interim management of bottom fishing, we will continue to advocate for a stronger measure.
North Atlantic
The DSCC attended the annual meeting of NAFO in September, where an ecosystem approach to fisheries and a prohibition on keeping “bycatch” of Greenland sharks was agreed. But more work is needed to achieve the agreed full closure of VMEs to trawling, including prohibiting research trawls. To ensure NAFO meets its obligations, we created a Checklist for Success setting out key actions it needs to deliver. NAFO also closed the Eastern Canyons off Nova Scotia to all bottom fishing, largely thanks to the work of DSCC member Oceans North, which sat on the Technical Advisory Committee.

Our goal at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is for the remaining 10% of seamounts and the mid ocean ridge on the high seas south of Iceland not yet closed to bottom trawling to be placed off limits through additional closures, and that currently provisionally closed areas are not reopened. Latest reports show that approximately nine EU vessels are still bottom fishing in the ABNJ. Our continued engagement with both NEAFC and the European Commission in pursuit of the phase-out of bottom trawling on all seamounts and associated features is therefore critical.

European Union
In September 2022, we welcomed the announcement that the EU would close over 16,000 square kilometres of the deep sea to bottom fishing in EU waters of the Northeast Atlantic. This good news represents the long overdue implementation of the EU’s Deep-sea Access Regulation commitment to close 87 sensitive zones and 57 VMEs, including seamounts, to all bottom trawling gear. The DSCC was instrumental in getting this Regulation adopted in 2016 and has been campaigning for its implementation ever since. These areas represent 17% of the EU waters between 400-800 metres deep. But the battle is not over. Immediately following the EU closures, the Spanish Government signaled its intention to challenge the EU Regulation at the European Court of Justice. The DSCC is committed to supporting the Commission, including through advocacy in France and Portugal and by securing the scientific capacity needed to engage fully with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).
In 2022, the DSCC participated in negotiations to agree a High Seas Treaty at the UN in New York at the CBD COP15. While progress was made at High Seas Treaty talks held in March and August, the 2022 negotiations ultimately concluded without finalizing a treaty to protect biodiversity in ABNJ.

The DSCC stressed that States must address all issues relating to marine biodiversity in ABNJ, including deep-sea mining and bottom trawling, and conclude the treaty as soon as possible.

The year ended on a high note with the historic Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15 on 19 December, committing governments to protect at least 30% of Earth’s land and ocean by 2030. We welcomed the COP15 Draft Decision on “Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity” but challenged governments to defend the deep from all threats, calling on them to also effectively manage the remaining 70% of the ocean and protect it from deep-sea mining and deep-sea bottom trawling on VMEs.

The COP15 30x30 target and explicit language about protecting deep-sea biodiversity is also a boost to our Global Seamounts campaign. Area based management tools (ABMTs) such as MPAs are important tools to protect seamounts, all of which are VMEs. This will be increasingly important for ABNJ as the High Sea Treaty is adopted.
The DSCC works closely with deep-sea scientists around the world. We provide information to scientists on key policy issues relevant to international and regional negotiations, and we consult experts when developing our own campaign goals and positions.

Measurable outputs include the DSCC making scientific submissions to and/or organizing the participation of scientists in meetings and workshops, and helping to provide outreach to raise awareness about important studies related to the deep sea.

New research published in the journal *Marine Policy* in April 2022, led by deep-sea biologist Dr. Diva Amon presented an Assessment of scientific gaps related to the effective environmental management of deep-seabed mining. For the first time, this study provides a comprehensive overview of the gaps in our knowledge about ocean areas targeted for deep-sea mining and how they could be impacted, confirming that there are too many scientific unknowns to allow this new industry to be unleashed on our ocean.

We helped to promote a new scientific report entitled “Undisturbed: the deep ocean’s vital role in safeguarding us from crises” that was published ahead of the UNFCCC COP27 to call for the urgent protection of the deep sea in the face of the global climate crisis.

In November, the DSCC also supported WWF, a DSCC member organization, in the promotion of a report called “The Future Is Circular: Circular Economy and Critical Minerals for the Green Transition”. This study shows that the demand for critical minerals can be reduced by up to 58% by 2050 with new technology, circular economy models and recycling, which supports the DSCC position that we do not need to strip mine fragile deep-ocean ecosystems to power a green transition. This position was further supported a few weeks later when we welcomed the EU Council and European Parliament’s provisional political agreement to create a sustainable life cycle for batteries, that also brings us closer to the goal of eliminating any need for deep-sea mining.
The DSCC’s visibility and communications impact continued to grow throughout 2022. We are increasingly known as an expert voice and authority on threats to deep-sea biodiversity and are able to reach large numbers of both key stakeholders and the wider public through our network.

Deep-seabed mining became a hot issue in 2022 and media coverage sky-rocketed, both in legacy media and across social media platforms – especially around major events like the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in June. In total, 9,898 articles were published on deep-sea mining in 2022, almost double the number from the previous year. The DSCC was mentioned in 1,511 of these articles, compared to 629 articles in 2021. We also featured in many articles on deep-sea fishing, including in The Bangkok Post, Mongabay, Tempo, Stuff NZ, and Scoop NZ.

Across social media, engagement with deep-sea mining content increased by 117% throughout the year, peaking during ISA meetings and major ocean events like the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. The use of our DSCC campaign hashtag #DefendTheDeep increased by 1,165% compared with 2021. We also featured in many articles on deep-sea fishing, including in The Bangkok Post, Mongabay, Tempo, Stuff NZ, and Scoop NZ.

On 5 December, we coordinated the first #DeepDay, building on the success of #DeepWeek over the past two years. Deep Day was held online and a huge range of civil society organizations took part, both within and beyond the DSCC’s membership, hosting events, releasing new products and materials, and engaging on social media. Scientists, scientific institutions, influencers and parliamentarians also took part in the day. We reached an audience of 2.9 million via Twitter and Instagram across 40 countries.

Other events and initiatives that helped the DSCC reach new audiences in 2022 include:

- The Say No to Deep-Sea Mining global petition organized by the DSCC with Only One, The Oxygen Project, and Sustainable Ocean Alliance, which has collected over 230,000 signatures.

- The Defend the Deep mural series in New Zealand and counterpart collaboration with New York artists Eric Orr and Sally Penn and the “Blobfish” Outlaw Ocean Mural Project in the Bronx, which was also captured by youth film-making project Pocket Flicks, run by The International Child Program.

- In Too Deep – the DSCC film that spotlights the threats posed by the race to mine the deep sea. The film was selected at numerous film festivals in 2022, including the Wildlife Film Festival, International Ocean Film Festival, and Green Film Festival, and received honourable mentions at others, including the prestigious Wildlife Day Film Showcase.
The Stichting Deep Sea Conservation Coalition Board of Directors comprises:
Chair — Lance Morgan
Treasurer — Susanna Fuller
Secretary — Sebastian Losada

The Board is advised by a Steering Group that, in 2022, included representatives from member organizations Earthworks, Greenpeace International, Marine Conservation Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council, Oceans North, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Seas at Risk and WWF. The DSCC also has an affiliate foundation in New Zealand with an identical Board of Directors.

More than 100 civil society groups comprise the DSCC, including law and policy institutes, environmental organizations and fishers organizations, all of whom are committed to protecting the deep sea. It is run by a secretariat made up of an international team of policy and campaign experts, lawyers and political activists, and coordinators. The team has established a strong reputation and profile at the UN and other international fora, as well as on the ground in places where they work more locally. In 2022, the DSCC team grew with the addition of a Lead for each of the two focal campaigns and a Head of Operations.

The program is made possible through generous support from a group of private foundations and our network of member and partner organizations. In 2022, the DSCC received financial support from 10 Percent for the Ocean, Arcadia – a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, The Baum Foundation, Marc and Lynne Benioff, Lush, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Oceans 5, The Overbrook Foundation, The Schmidt Family Foundation 11th Hour Project, Rutherford Seydel, Synchronicity Earth and The Waterloo Foundation. The DSCC does not receive any funding from governments or corporations.

Right: Despite the crushing pressure, extreme variations in temperature and complete lack of sunlight, live still thrives at hydrothermal vents in the deep sea. This is a diffuse flow site dominated by snails and sea anemones, Tonga.
The DSCC’s accounts are held across three entities – our foundations in the Netherlands and New Zealand, and with the Marine Conservation Institute in the US. In the Netherlands, accountancy services were provided by Counting for the Future according to generally accepted accounting principles. The audit was conducted by Boonzaaijer & Merkus Accountants & Adviseurs.

### STICHTING DEEP SEA CONSERVATION COALITION

**Statement of Operations, Netherlands**  
**Year end December 31st 2022 (in euros)**

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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>324,473</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>550,222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>407,020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional consultants</td>
<td>103,304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner organizations</td>
<td>351,093</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total project expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,788,865</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As of December 31st 2022 (in euros)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>544,315</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaids</td>
<td>696</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>545,011</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short term</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>50,856</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>87,504</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred project revenue</td>
<td>406,651</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>545,011</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MARINE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

**Statement of Operations, US**  
**Year end December 31st 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT REVENUE</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>654,041</td>
<td>612,555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>74,027</td>
<td>69,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>489,531</td>
<td>458,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Events</td>
<td>22,068</td>
<td>20,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>1,391</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total project expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>587,017</strong></td>
<td><strong>549,783</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DEEP SEA CONSERVATION COALITION INC.

**Statement of Operations, New Zealand**  
**Year end December 31st 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT REVENUE</th>
<th>NZD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>130,901</td>
<td>77,691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting &amp; Accounting</td>
<td>51,716</td>
<td>30,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner organization</td>
<td>1,537</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total project expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>184,251</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,664</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Member Organizations

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)
Beneath The Waves
BirdLife International
Blue Climate Initiative
Blue Marine Foundation
CeDePesca
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Centro de Conservacion 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
ecoOceanica
Ecocanarios
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 Cetus
Fundación Malpelo y otros ecosistemas marinos
GEOTA – Grupo de Estudios de Ordenamiento del Territorio e Ambiente
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
Gesellschaaf 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)
Jatun Sacha Foundation
Kiwis Against Seabed Mining
Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM)
KYMA sea conservation & research
Living Oceans Society
LPN – Liga para a Protecção da Natureza
MarBrasil
Marviva
Marevivo
Marine Conservation Institute
Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
Marine Research Foundation
MarViva
Mineral Inheritors Rights Association (MIRA)
National Fishworkers’ Forum
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Nederlandse Elasmobranchen Vereniging (NEV)
Nekton Foundation
Ocean Futures Society
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)
Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
Pelagos Oceanos
PONG-Pesca – Portuguese Platform of NGOs on Fisheries
Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA)
ProNaturaleza
Quercus
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
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)
Wildlife Conservation Society
Women4Oceans
World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
WWF
Youth and Environment Europe
The DSCC is composed of more than 100 civil society groups, including law and policy institutes, environmental organizations and fishers organizations, all of whom are committed to protecting the deep sea. For more information on the DSCC and member organizations visit: www.savethehighseas.org