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Who Is Eating Most of the Zooplankton in the Oceanic Gulf of Mexico? The Impact of Mesopelagic Fishes

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the responsibility for safeguarding the environment. This should result in an undisturbed seafloor network to conserve jurisdiction. However, where deep-sea mining is concerned, UNCLOS has entrusted the International Seabed Authority with delivering essential contributions. Organizations and a few governments are the driving power behind this development. Lawyers and legal officers always

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PROTECTION OF HIGH SEA AREAS - STATUS REPORT

Between 2001 and 2003, three workshops have been held to discuss the protection of certain species and communities in deep-water regions. A fourth workshop will be conducted towards the end of this year. Scientists, non-governmental organizations and a few governments are the driving power behind this development. Lawyers and legal officers always delivering essential contributions.

Protected areas have been established in Exclusive Economic Zones under national laws, but the United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) does not provide the legal basis for conservation measures on the high seas, i.e., beyond national jurisdiction. However, where deep-sea mining is concerned, UNCLOS has entrusted the International Seabed Authority with the responsibility for safeguarding the environment. This should result in an undisturbed seafloor network to conserve biodiversity, interrupted by isolated mining blocks. For support of such a concept, scientists are requested to study species distributions on scales of kilometers. This approach should be applicable also to other human impacts on the deep seafloor.

Discussions aim at regional regulations, particularly to overcome the intensive overfishing of deep-water fish stocks, and at amendments to UNCLOS through the United Nations Consultative Informal Process (CIP). High seas protected areas have been proposed particularly by non-governmental organizations.

Scientists should be aware that intrusion into the deep sea by various societal activities may severely disturb the research they conduct in the interest of human society. Conflicting interests may develop between stakeholders, and scientists should realize that they are among the stakeholders. The establishment of Unique Science Priority Areas (USPAs) to safeguard scientific activities in the deep sea would also provide certain protection to species diversity and communities.