

Deep-Sea Mining: Not worth the risk

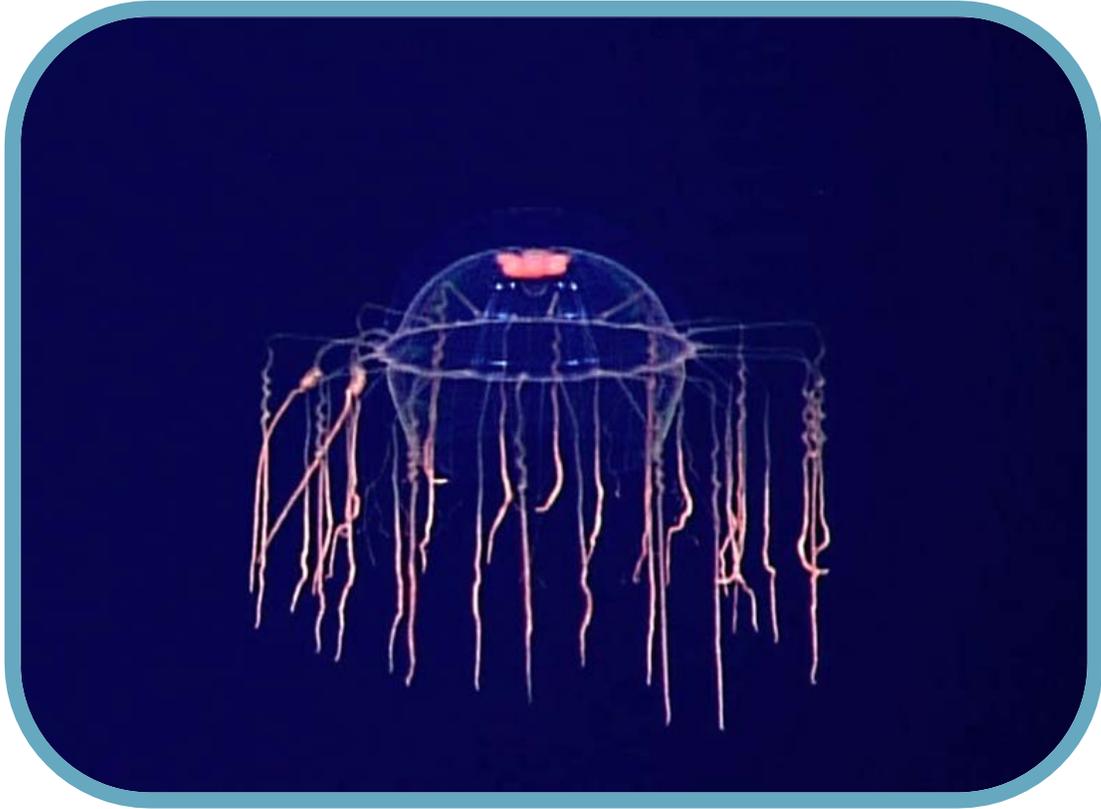
Sian Owen
Director, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
7 September 2022

Earth Journalism Network webinar –
“Human Impacts and Human Rights on the High Seas”

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition: 100+ Members Worldwide



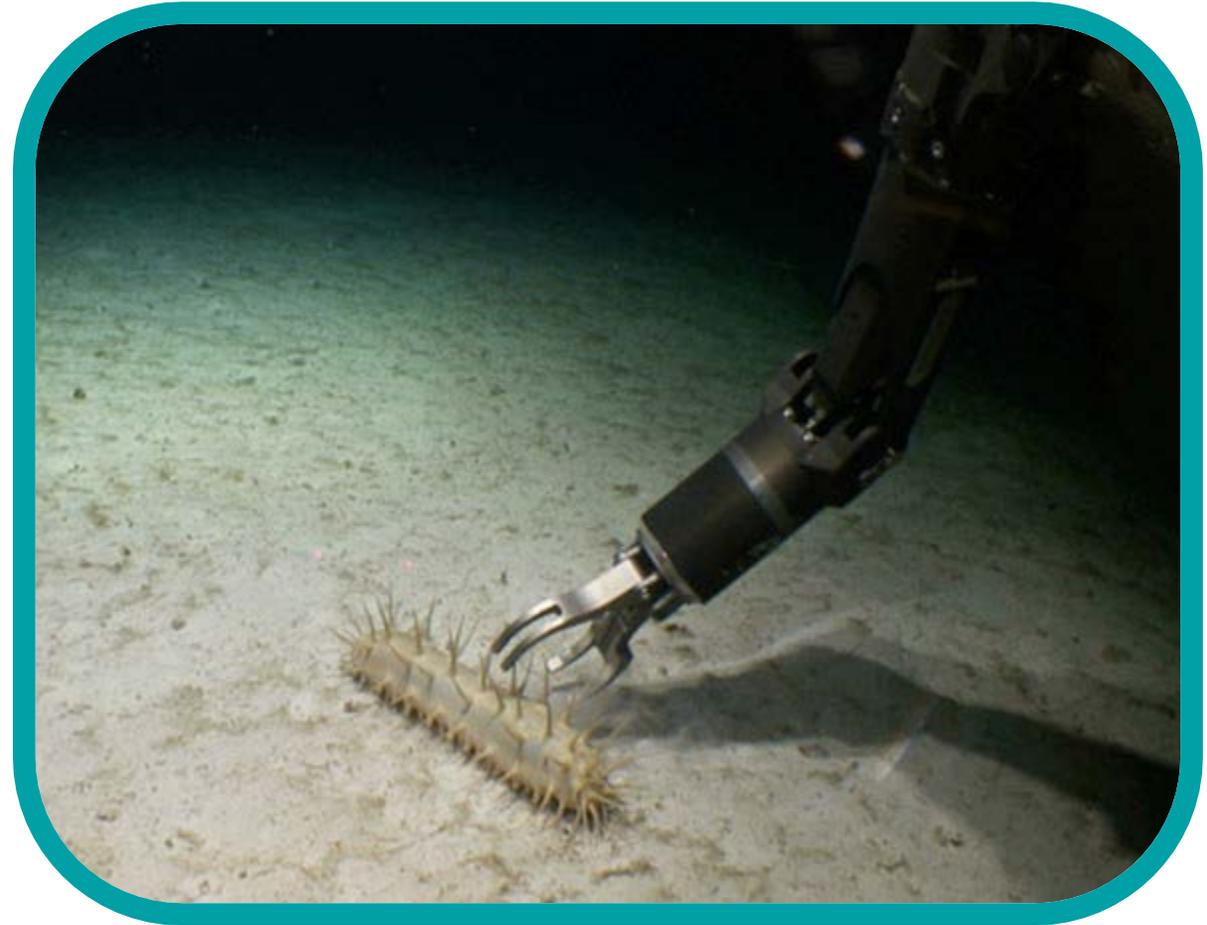
Deep-Sea Mining - it isn't worth the risk



- A healthy deep sea **is critical for all life on earth**
- **Deep-sea mining** is not needed or worth the risk to people and planet
- **Momentum** for a moratorium, or “pause”, is rapidly building

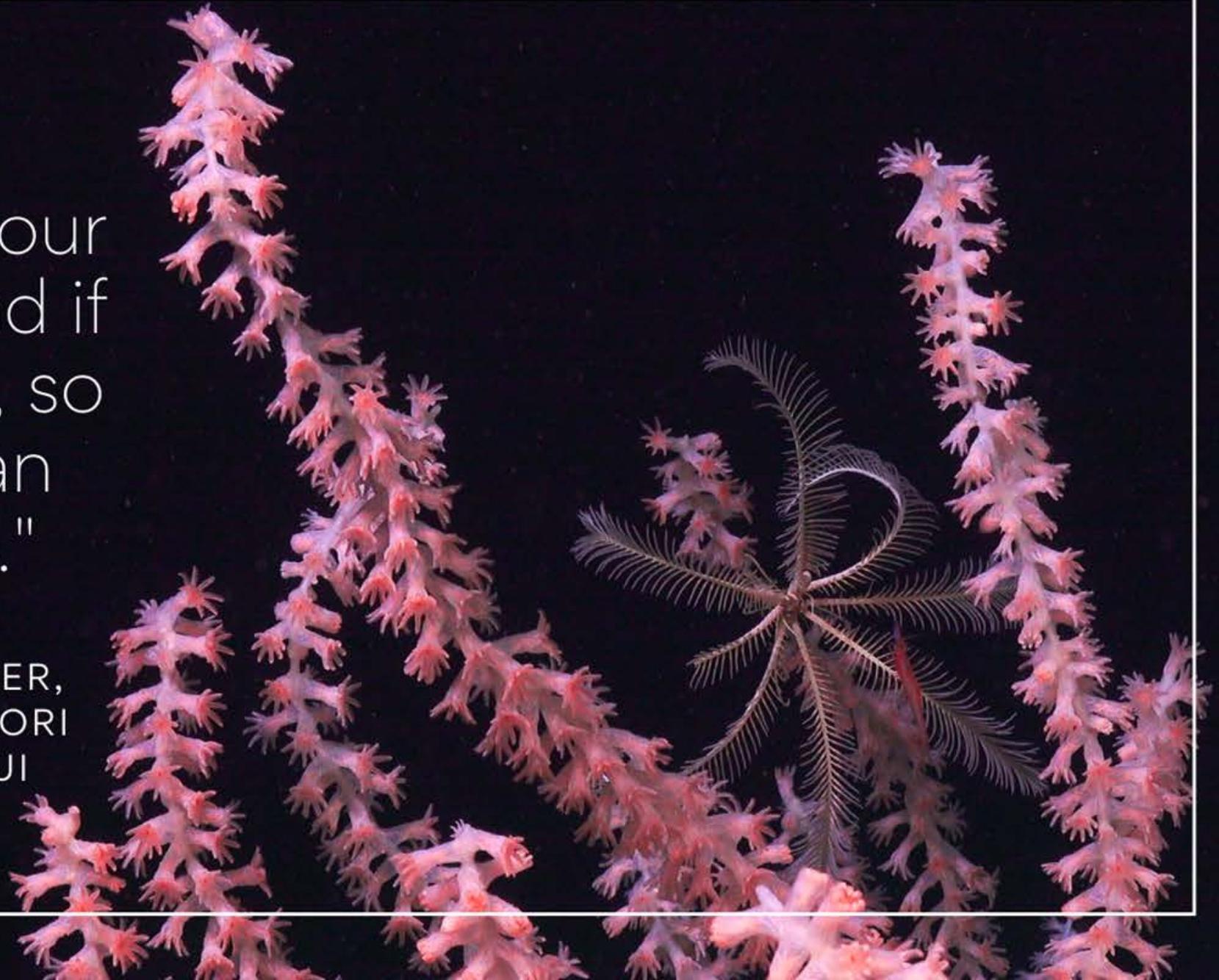
Why a healthy deep sea matters

- The **largest habitat on Earth**, home to approx **ten million species**
- It **makes life on Earth possible**
- A potential **source of future medicines & technology**
- It **holds cultural** and **intrinsic** value globally



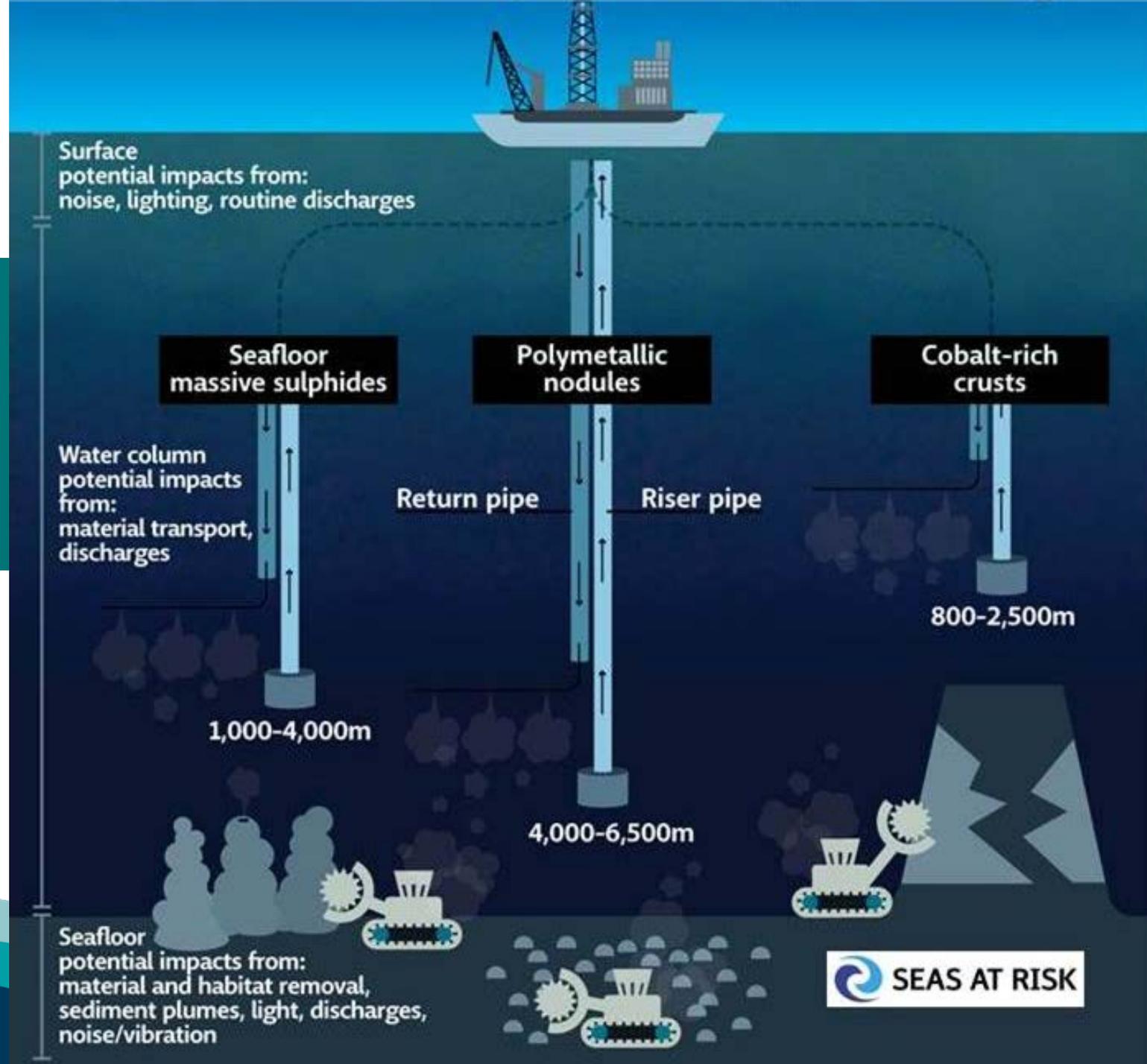
"“The seabed is our
Mother Earth and if
she is disrupted, so
too is the ocean
and as are we.”

DEBBIE NGAREWA-PACKER,
CO-LEADER OF THE MĀORI
PARTY & NGĀTI RUANUI
IWI LEADER



What is deep-sea mining?

The deep-sea mining industry wants to stripmine the deep sea for profit.





Deep-sea mining is not wanted



“

Deep sea mining would have catastrophic impacts on the seafloor site and its inhabitants... The case for deep sea mining has not yet been made.

- UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee [Sustainable Seas Report](#)

”

Not worth the risk

- Irreversible loss of ecosystem services, habitats & species
- Massive sediment plumes
- Wastewater, noise & light pollution
- Risks world's largest carbon sinks
- 15 years single license area: impact size of Costa Rica
- 31 licenses granted, so far

If permitted, this would be the largest mining operation the world has ever seen – in the blue heart of our planet, one of the world's last remaining wildernesses.



Credit: NOAA Office of Ocean & Research

Deep-sea mining is not needed

Technology is changing rapidly

TNO innovation for life

NL NEWS FAQ CONTACT

FOCUS AREAS COLLABORATION ABOUT TNO CAREER TNO INSIGHTS

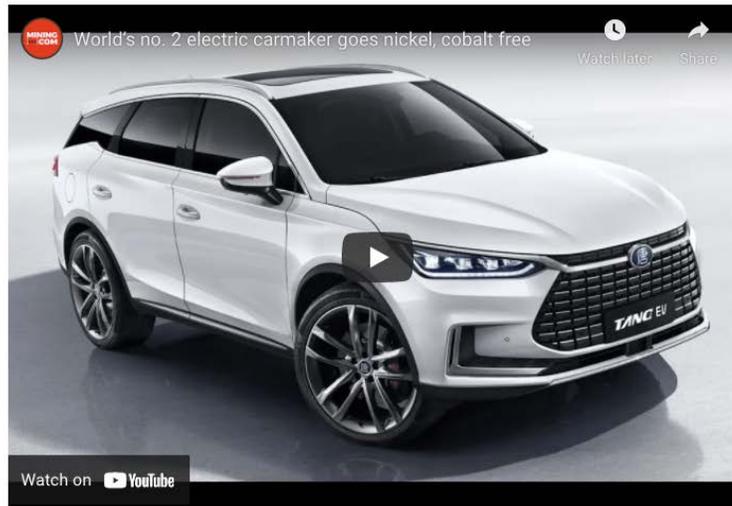
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TNO AND PARTNERS ARE AWARDED 11.8M EURO GRANT TO DEVELOP NEXT GENERATION COBALT-FREE BATTERIES

World's no. 2 electric carmaker goes nickel, cobalt free

Mining.com Staff Writer | April 8, 2021 | 5:21 pm Battery Metals Intelligence Video China Europe USA Cobalt Manganese Nickel



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JUNE 16, 2020

Sulfur provides promising 'next-gen' battery alternative

by Katie Holland, University of Maryland

A schematic illustration of the formation of chemical bonding stabilized carbon-small sulfur composite. Credit: C...

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Google, BMW, AB Volvo, Samsung back environmental call for pause on deep-sea mining

CONTRIBUTOR Helen Reid — Reuters PUBLISHED MAR 31, 2021 8:09AM EDT



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How Elon Musk aims to revolutionise battery technology

By Justin Rowlatt Chief environment correspondent

© 17 June 2020

Climate change



Deep-sea mining is not needed

- Tech developments offering alternatives to battery metals
- A circular economy can reduce demand for “virgin metals”
- It would not replace terrestrial mining



Photo by [Nadine Shaabana](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Governance concerns

- International seabed = **“the common heritage of mankind”**
- Issues with transparency, voting structures, lack of scientific and environment committee
- Race to mine – “2-year rule”
- “Secret Data, Tiny Islands and a Quest for Treasure on the Ocean Floor”, New York Times, 29 August 2022



Photo by IISD/ENB | Francis Dejon



TECHNO SPARK

Resistance is building.

deepsea
conservationcoalition



Marine Expert Statement Calling for a Pause to Deep-Sea Mining

Signed by 622 marine science & policy experts from over 44 countries

For the reasons outlined above, we strongly recommend that the transition to the exploitation of mineral resources be paused until sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to make informed decisions as to whether deep-sea mining can be authorized without significant damage to the marine environment and, if so, under what conditions. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides an opportune period in which to collect more information about the species and ecosystems that could be affected by deep-sea mining. As scientists, we deeply value evidence-based decision making, especially in instances as consequential as a global decision to open up an entirely new frontier of the ocean to large-scale industrial resource exploitation. The sheer importance of the ocean to our planet and people, and the risk of large-scale and permanent loss of biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem functions, necessitates a pause of all efforts to begin mining of the deep sea, in line with the precautionary principle, and an acceleration of research so that we can gain a better understanding of what is at stake.



NO DEEP SEABED MINING
CALL FOR A MORATORIUM

**WE CALL ON GOVERNMENTS TO
SUPPORT A GLOBAL MORATORIUM ON
DEEP SEABED MINING**

**BMW
GROUP**

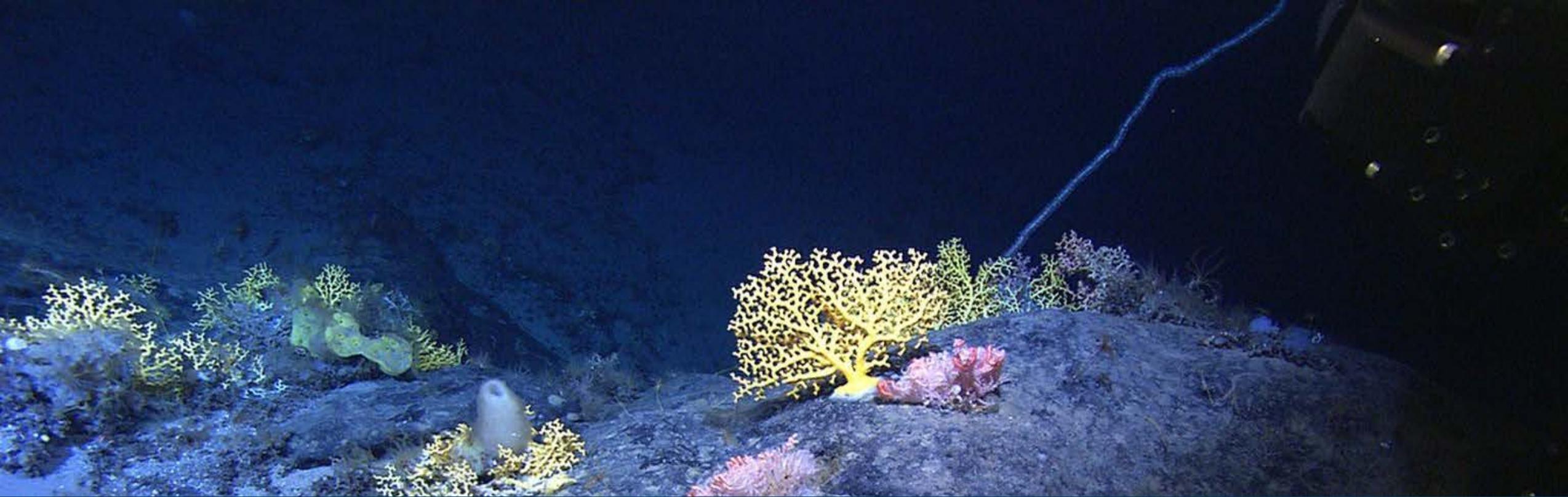
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**Deepsea
mining coalition**



Fishing Sector calls for a moratorium:

- EU Advisory Councils (Long Distance, Pelagic & South-western Waters)
- International Pole and Line Foundation
- Norwegian Fisheries Association
- SATA (South Africa Tuna Association)
- SAHLLA (South African Hake Long Line Association)

Harmful Marine Extractives:

Understanding the
risks & impacts of
financing non-renewable
extractive industries

Deep-Sea Mining

“While many existing ocean-linked sectors have the potential to contribute positively to a sustainable blue economy, this is not true for all sectors. The extraction on non-renewable marine resources such as oil & gas and seabed minerals in particular poses a significant risk to the ocean and cannot be considered sustainable.”

Launched 2 June 2022 at Stockholm +50



“Until the need for, and potential consequences of, deep-sea mining are better understood, the concept is conceptually difficult to align with the definition of a sustainable ocean economy and raises various environmental, legal and governance challenges, as well as possible conflicts with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

High Level Panel for a Sustainable
Ocean Economy, 2020



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ANTONIO BENJUMEA

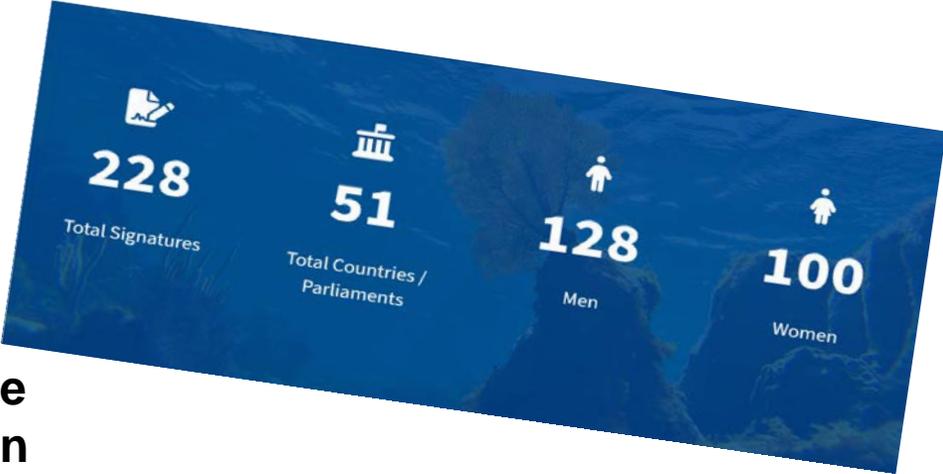


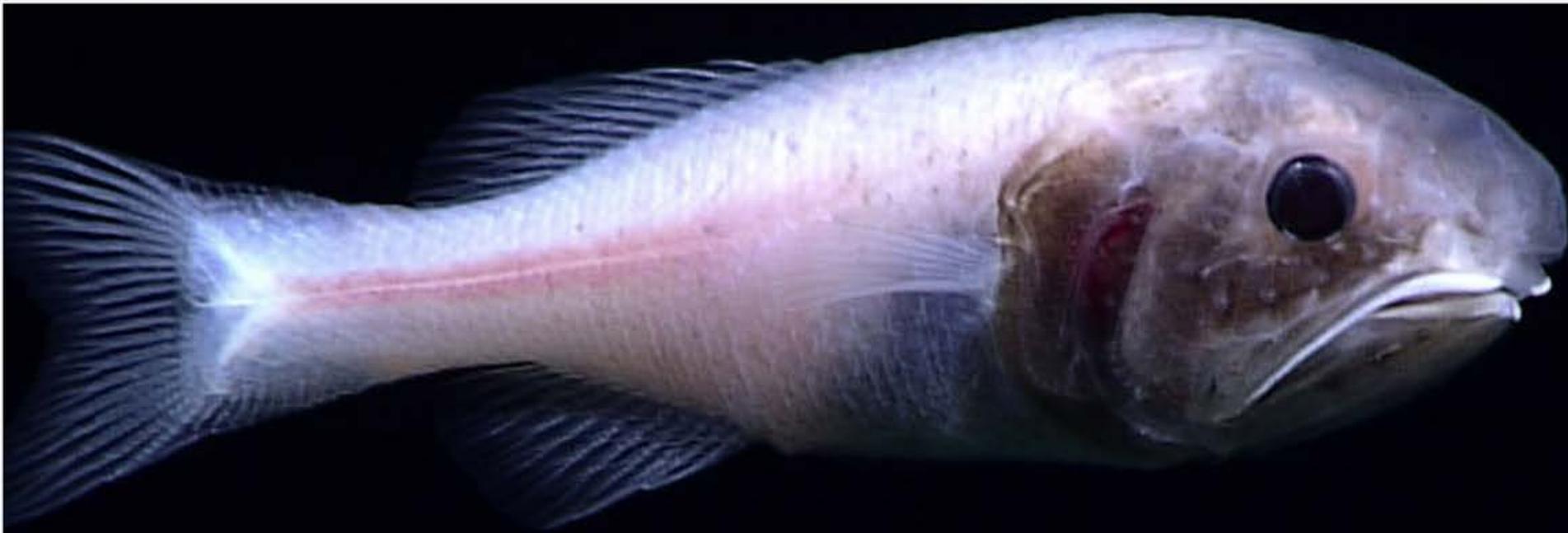


UN Ocean Conference, June 2022 – The Presidents of Palau and Fiji launched a global alliance of countries calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

WORLD LEADERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO HALT THE EMERGING DEEP-SEA MINING INDUSTRY

We, Parliamentarians from around the world, committed to protecting the ocean and the human rights of the people who depend on it, join today the growing call for a global moratorium on deep-sea mining.





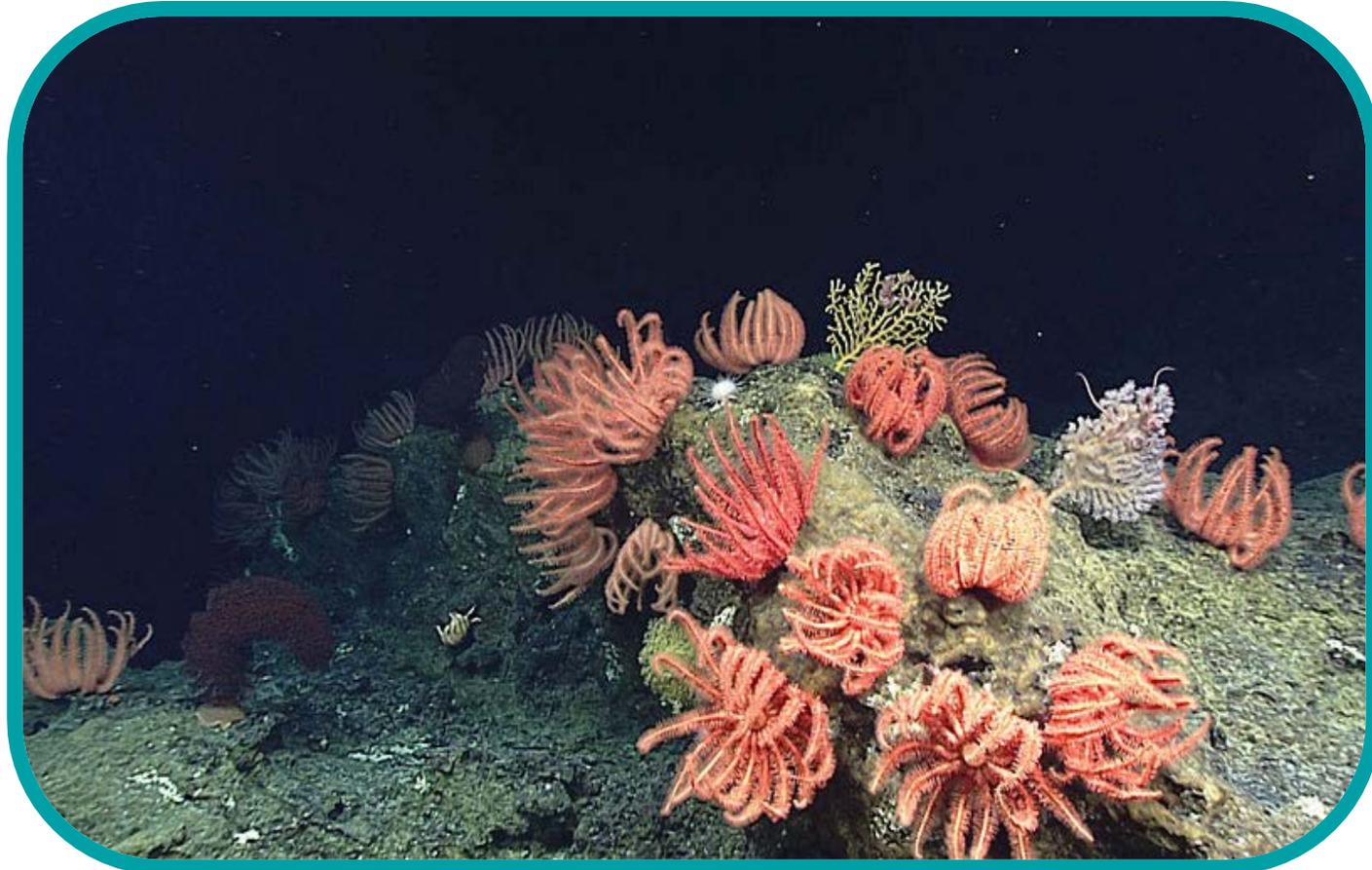
“The rush to mine this pristine and unexplored environment risks creating terrible impacts that cannot be reversed.”

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

How can journalists connect with this topic?

- DSCC membership
- Calls for a moratorium by:
 - Scientists
 - Companies
 - Governments and Parliamentarians
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Celebrities
- 167 ISA member countries

Resistance is powerful and building in many places.



Credit: NOAA Office of Ocean & Research

deepsea
conservationcoalition



Credit: NOAA Office of Ocean & Research

Thank you!

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