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4 April 2016 afternoon WG II: EIA - scope

Intervention NRDC, for High Seas Alliance

(English translation)

Mr Facilitator

I speak for NRDC and the High Seas Alliance

On scope we believe it would be helpful to have reference to the ESPOO Convention article 1

This includes a definition of “impact” to clarify scope. *E.g.:* “‘Impact’ means any effect caused by a proposed activity on the environment including human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interaction among these factors; it also includes effects on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors.”

For SEAS, it is important to include related definitions like plans and programmes or environmental report. We refer to the Kiev Protocol, article 2 and the EU SEA Directive, also in article 2.

On the question of threshold, we support the interventions which mention the term significant adverse effects, a term which has already been addressed in the FAO Deep Sea Guidelines.

Under the Espoo Convention Article 2, Activities, plans and programmes are subject to a prior EIA/SEA where they may have **significant adverse effects** on the marine environment or marine biodiversity of ABNJ