

DEEP-SEA MINING FACTS

#1

The impacts would be large-scale and irreversible.

The **deep ocean covers 2/3 of the planet's surface**, yet it remains one of the **least understood ecosystems on Earth**. Previously thought as hostile to life, the deep sea is now known to harbour extraordinary biodiversity, including slow-growing, long-lived species and unique habitats, essential for sustaining life. Mining here would impact all this, but without more data, comparisons with terrestrial mining will always be unsound.

So don't be fooled when the pro-mining lobby says:

"Mining the deep sea is less damaging than mining on land. The deep ocean has less life than land, and any impacts would be temporary."



Want to know the truth?



Impacts of deep-sea mining are likely **large-scale, long-lasting and irreversible**. A study examining a 1979 deep-sea mining test found the deep seabed did not recover after 44 years, with biodiversity still reduced. Tests with modern nodule-collection equipment show that a third of life in the mining tracks disappeared. Impacts are expected to be far greater at commercial scale.

Mining waste discharged into the ocean is likely to disrupt mid-water ecosystems and the species that rely on them, with **consequences for fish populations and carbon cycling**.

Focusing on biomass alone gives a distorted picture. Biomass measures weight, not ecological importance. Biodiversity sustains ecosystems; Even low-biomass deep-sea habitats support **nutrient cycling, food webs and carbon storage**.

If anything, deep-sea mining would occur in addition to terrestrial mining, compounding the environmental and social impacts of mining worldwide, rather than reducing them.

Artificial intelligence? Wishful thinking!



Proposed AI-driven mining technologies for selectively picking nodules have not been tested in the deep sea, nor are there studies on its impact, making their claims impossible to verify. Even without larger plumes, disturbance such as light and noise can have persistent and negative biological effects.



SEAS AT RISK

deepsea
conservationcoalition