

# DEEP-SEA MINING FACTS

## #4

### There is a troubling governance gap.

Current scientific and legal assessments indicate that deep-sea mining cannot be regulated safely because the foundational knowledge, regulatory tools and enforcement capacity do not yet exist. These issues will not be solved anytime soon.

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

"The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is close to finalising the Mining Code that will provide sufficient environmental safeguards to allow deep-sea mining to proceed responsibly."

### Want to know the truth?



The ISA is still negotiating fundamental elements of the Mining Code. It is **not close to being finalised** with core issues unresolved, including environmental thresholds, monitoring, compliance, liability and benefits-sharing.

If adopted hastily, the Mining Code cannot guarantee protection. Regulators cannot define acceptable damage, where it would occur or how to prevent it, which is essential to uphold the **precautionary principle**. Scientists indicate this could still take at least 10-15 years.

**Monitoring and enforcement remain a major problem.** The ISA has no independent inspection fleet, no permanent on-site presence, and limited ability to verify contractor data of experimental technologies so far away. Relying on self-reporting is risky.

Deep-sea ecosystems recover extremely slowly, if at all, and there is no realistic way to restore habitats or ensure companies remain financially liable for their damage.



### Call for a moratorium

Because of these interlinked scientific and governance gaps, numerous scientists, governments, Indigenous groups, financial institutions, civil society organisations and international bodies argue that safe regulation is not currently possible. This is why **momentum for a moratorium on deep-sea mining** continues to grow.



SEAS AT RISK

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