

Deep Seabed Mining – How Can Life in the Deep Sea Be Protected?

Frida M. Armas Pfirter

In order to deal with the protection of genetic resources in the deep seabed in relation to mining activities, the following topics will be developed:

- Legal regime of the Deep Seabed
- Scope of the Area regime and the Authority competences
- Mineral resources of the Area and the genetic resources *inextricably linked* to them
- Legal framework of the mining activities
- Legal framework for the protection of Life in the Area

Based on the analysis of the before mentioned topics, the main conclusion is that it is not possible to conceive the protection of the living resources of the Area irrespective of the activities related to the mineral resources in the same zone.

Therefore, it is urgent to develop, under the Law of the Sea framework, the legal regime of these living resources taking into account their special characteristics and the geographical space to which they are confined.