

Open oceans, open data: Biodiversity and policy in the deep-sea mining frontier

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Deep-sea mining of hard mineral resources is close on the horizon. Major efforts are being made to bring expertise together on an international level to enable sustainable management of deep-sea ecosystems. On the policy side, my project aims to synthesise the current international and UK national environmental policy and regulatory framework with regards to deep-sea mining. On the biological side, my work is collating existing biodiversity data from hydrothermal vents on a global scale, which are being targeted for mining both in national and international waters. The resulting database will allow me to quantify and compare the biodiversity and discovery rates at these targeted mineral resources to provide biological baselines for regional scale management and methodological recommendations for environmental impact assessments.