

Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Citation: [30 U.S.C. §§ 1441 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act”, on June 28, 1980

Summary:

The [Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act \(DSHMRA\)](#) establishes a United States legal regime for the exploration and recovery of hard mineral resources in the deep seabed, pending the U.S.’s adoption of an international regime, such as the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#) .

The DSHMRA establishes a licensing and permit process for exploration and recovery of hard mineral resources for persons and entities under U.S. jurisdiction. The DSHMRA process helps to ensure the protection of the marine environment, safety of life and property at sea, prevention of unreasonable interference with other uses of the high seas, and conservation of mineral resources.

No commercial deep seabed mining is currently being conducted under the DSHMRA permitting regime; however, two exploration licenses are currently active for seabed areas in the Clarion-Clipperton zone of the south Pacific Ocean.

Source: http://www.gc.noaa.gov/documents/gcil_dshmra_summary.pdf

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