



Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H2Y 1N9

Wädenswil, November 8, 2017

OceanCare submission of information to support the objectives of the expert workshop to develop options for modifying the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the EBSA process, 5-8 December 2017 – Berlin, Germany

Dear Dr. Paşca Palmer,

Thank you for sending the notification inviting OceanCare to submit information on “options for modifying the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), for describing new areas” (Ref.: SCBD/SPS/DC/SBG/JL/JG/86798). OceanCare would like to bring to your attention the importance of incorporating the consideration of ocean noise into the pre-existing process for the designation of significant and/or sensitive/vulnerable areas. The adverse impacts of ocean noise on a wide variety of marine species and ecosystems are extensively documented in the scientific literature, and new research findings are published almost weekly. For your reference, we have appended to this letter a brief bibliography on the effects of ocean noise on marine species and the effectiveness of marine protected areas and environmental impacts assessments to manage its effects.

OceanCare has long experience as an advocate for incorporating measures to manage the sources and impacts of ocean noise into international and regional conservation agreements. In collaboration with other concerned non-governmental organizations, we are engaged in the Silent Oceans campaign to raise awareness about the impacts of ocean noise and the need for protected areas. We have been active at the United Nations in advocating for the incorporation of noise management into the frameworks for marine protected areas and environmental impact assessments proposed for the new international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. We are also active supporters of the recent work on the *Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-Generating Activities* developed for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its family of agreements.



As concerned members of civil society, we recommend that specific measures for the management of ocean noise be incorporated into the pre-existing process for the designation of EBSAs: 1) consideration of noise impacts on vulnerable species and introduction of spatial, seasonal and functional restrictions on activities that generate noise inside EBSAs; 2) designation of adequate space to buffer from noise generated by activities outside EBSAs; 3) introduction of limitations on noise-generating activities in areas adjacent to EBSAs; 4) designation of EBSAs that offer protection from noise for the migratory corridors of invertebrates, fish and cetaceans.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our recommendations for incorporation into the EBSA process. Please feel free to contact us any time if you have questions or would like more information about ocean noise. We support the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and look forward to hearing more about the outcome of the expert workshop.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sigrid Lüber". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Sigrid" and "Lüber" being capitalized and prominent.

Sigrid Lüber
President
OceanCare