

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

REFERENCE: Ocean noise studies

31 July 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to kindly draw your attention to General Assembly resolution 71/257 adopted on 23 December 2016 entitled, "Oceans and the law of the sea".

Paragraph 266 of that resolution reads as follows:

"266. Notes that ocean noise has potential significant adverse impacts on living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on living marine resources, notes the work of States and competent international organizations in that regard, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website;"

Paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 reads as follows:

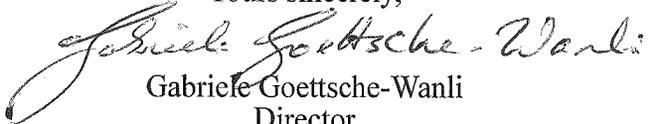
"107. Encourages further studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on marine living resources, and requests the Division to compile the peer reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and to make them available on its website;"

Should your Organization wish to submit such peer-reviewed studies pursuant to these resolutions, kindly send either links to where the studies can be found, or electronic copies of these studies with written confirmation that any required copyright permission has been granted to allow the United Nations to post them on its website. Submissions may be sent to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Seas via email to fernando.cabrera@un.org, with a copy to doalos@un.org.

The Office of Legal Affairs notes the special importance of compiling these studies at this time, given the decision of the General Assembly in paragraph 339 of resolution 71/257, that the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea shall focus its discussions at its nineteenth meeting, in 2018, on the theme "Anthropogenic underwater noise".

We look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli  
Director

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs

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programmes of the United Nations  
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