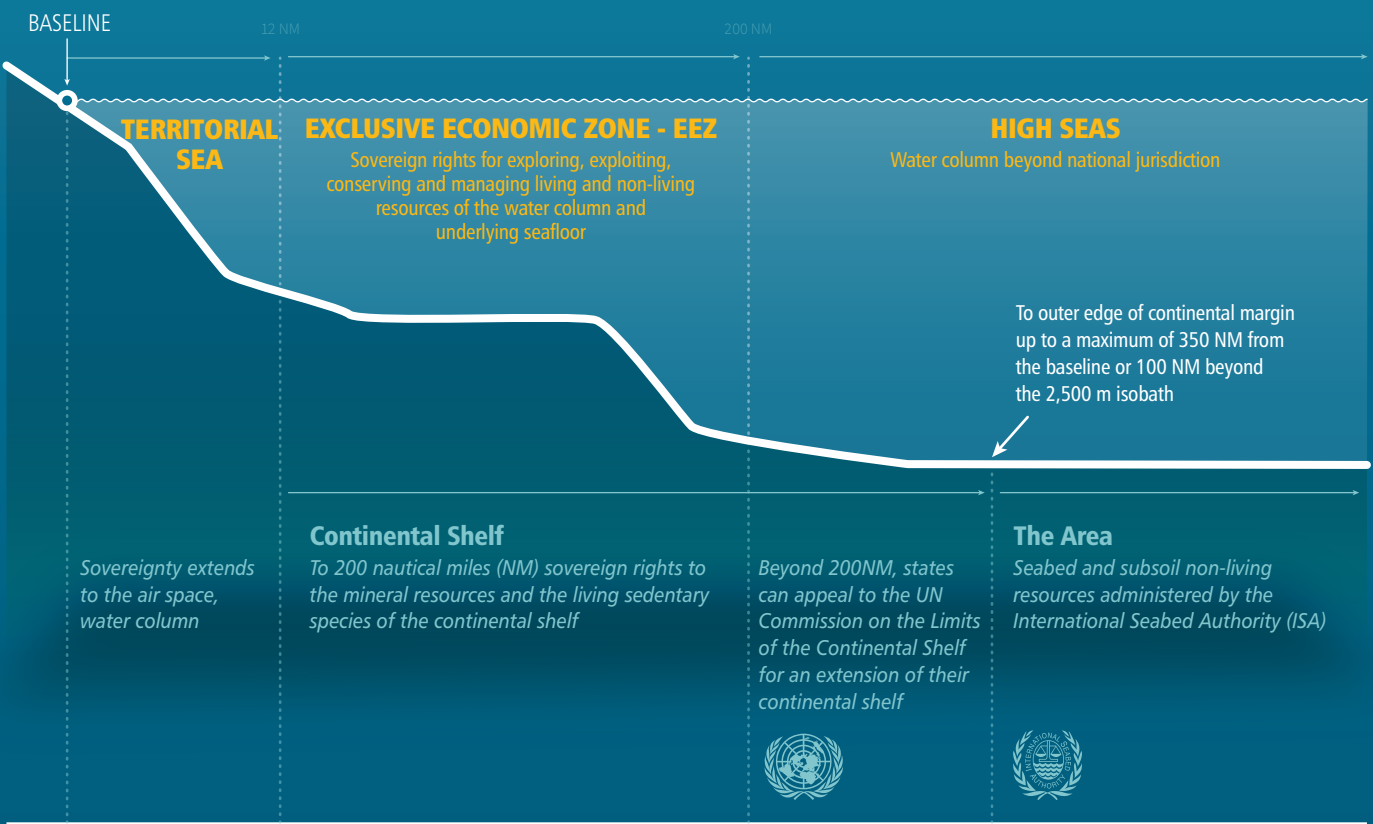


How is the deep-sea governed?

The 1982 United Nations Convention the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides rules, principles and guidelines for virtually every ocean use, and divides the ocean into national and international jurisdiction.

UNCLOS' division of the ocean



1 Nautical Mile (NM) = 1,852m

Who controls the deep seabed?



LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR REGULATION OF DEEP-SEA MINING

depends on whether deposits are located within national or international jurisdiction, areas established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Deposits in national waters are controlled by the state.



“THE AREA”

UNCLOS designated the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as “the Area”. The Area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind and as such can only be developed for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

How is the Area governed now?



UNCLOS

Entities interested in carrying out activities must apply to the ISA following procedures set out in UNCLOS and its 1994 Implementation Agreement



ISA

International Seabed Authority was established by UNCLOS to organise and manage activities in the Area



ISA's Legal and Technical Commission, a group of 30 experts, will review applications for exploration contracts, evaluate annual reports from contractors and set guidelines for reporting on environmental baseline studies



Contractors must have a sponsoring state that is party to UNCLOS. Currently **29 exploration contracts** have been granted, giving contractors have permission to conduct further analysis of deposits, test equipment and facilities and complete necessary assessments of the feasibility and impacts of mining.



Next phase: developing a **Mining Code** to govern exploitation, which will include drafting and implementing operational requirements for commercial mining.