



**High Seas Alliance
Agenda Item 6
Intervention Day 6
IGC2 1 April 2019
Environmental Impact Assessments**

5.7 SEA

Thank you Mr Facilitator

It is encouraging to hear the support of many delegates for SEAs. We also associate ourselves with the intervention of WWF.

For those who want to know more, we have a paper on our website which we hope will assist delegates with an overview of the relevance of SEAs to this Agreement. While an EIA considers a single project with its impacts on the environment, a SEA considers all actual and proposed activities in the relevant region or sector, to assess the environment, activities and impacts in a proactive way, preferably before new activities take place. It is an important distinction.

We agree with the EU that the Agreement should future proof conduct SEAS, and we believe that as well as States, there should be a power for the bodies in the Instrument to conduct an SEA, as the Agreement provides an important opportunity to undertake the cross sectoral coordination, stakeholder consultation and scientific investigation that an SEA needs.

Like the African Group, PSIDs and many others we support Option 1 with an additional provision that provides that the scientific body of the COP may carry out a strategic environmental assessment where necessary to achieve the objectives of the agreement. We suggest a definition of SEAs by modifying the definition in the Kiev Protocol.

Thank you