



Date: 11 November 2020

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The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to refer the invitation by the co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects dated 6 November 2020, to provide comments on the second World Ocean Assessment, including its summary, before midnight on 11 November 2020.

The United Kingdom has noted the reference to activities on the Falklands Plateau in Chapter 7 – High-Latitude Ice (5th paragraph on page 357) of the draft Report. This paragraph as a whole deals with matters related to the Antarctic Treaty System. The area of the Falkland Islands and the activities there do not fall within the area covered by the Antarctic Treaty System, and as such should not be referred to in text dealing with the work of the Antarctic Treaty System. The UK therefore requests the removal of the following sentence from the draft Report – “Hydrocarbon exploration has started on the plateau surrounding the Falklands Islands (Malvinas)[1] (MacAulay, 2015), although assessment of associated environmental risks has only just begun and this area lies outside of the Antarctic governance system (Bigg and others, 2018).”

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.



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