DOSI/DOOS Intervention for framing of UN Ocean Declaration

Thank you co-facilitators of the 2020 UN Ocean conference. The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) and the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS) welcome this opportunity to contribute to the Zero Draft Declaration.

We note with support the mention of ocean warming, ocean acidification and deoxygenation and the prioritizing of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in item 5 of the draft declaration, and would like to offer the following remarks,

Over 60% of the ocean, the area beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) encompassing the high seas and the deep seas, does not fall under the jurisdiction of the UNFCCC, and does not have planned climate mitigation and adaptation, as occurs under States nationally determined contributions. Given the increasing development of living and non-living resource extraction activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction, we encourage the full integration of climate mitigation and adaptation into newly evolving conservation, management and policy actions for the high seas and deep seas. Please consider reflecting the integral connection of biodiversity, climate and human well-being in items 5,6,7 and 8, rather than separating climate as an isolated phenomenon.

Please recognize that that actions identified in item 10, for ABNJ require extensive coordination across the heavily siloed management of fisheries, seafloor minerals, biodiversity, genetic resources, shipping and dumping. This is especially true for the development of marine protected areas in ABNJ.

Also, please recognize the critical role for ocean observing and exploration within the high seas and deep seas, to address the actions identified in item 10, particularly for ocean management, planning and decision making, area- based management, climate mitigation and adaptation and nature-based solutions.

Thank you for this opportunity.