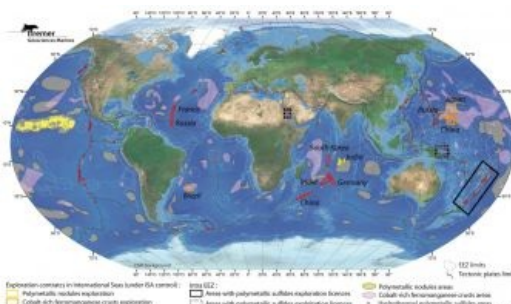
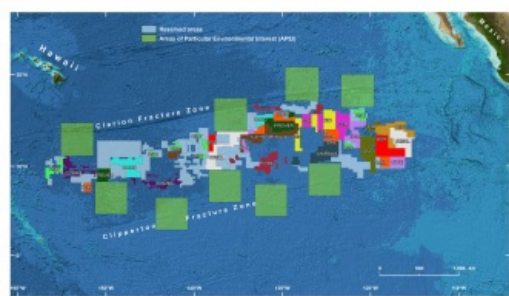
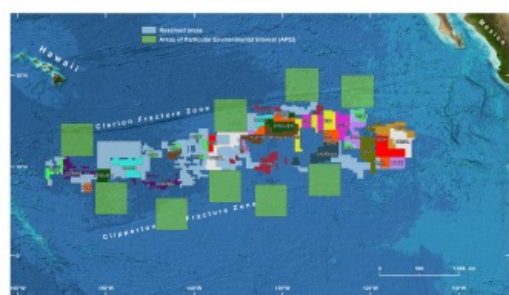


Germany Provides High-resolution Data for Pacific and Indian Oceans



The German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) is participating in IHO-led efforts to increase knowledge of the ocean and has shared high-resolution depth data for the German contract areas for deep-sea exploration granted by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The BGR provided gridded data for 85,000km² at a resolution

of 120 x 120 metres.

By comparison, Germany's territorial waters in the Baltic and North Seas, including the Exclusive Economic Zone, covers 57,000km².

A Better Image of the Seafloor

Both the Secretary-General of ISA, Michael W. Lodge, and the Secretary-General of IHO, Dr Mathias Jonas, welcomed Germany's initiative which contributes to ongoing global mapping efforts and represents a significant step towards improved knowledge in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This

contribution, which was facilitated by ISA, will help gain a better image of the seafloor in these areas. The shape and texture of the seafloor has an influence on a variety of ocean processes, including tides and currents and ocean circulation, which in turn have an impact on the movement of pollutants and plastics, as well as on the climate and the atmosphere.



ISA deep-sea exploration areas. (Courtesy: IFREMER)

The bathymetric data was gathered using multi-beam echosounders in the two German exploration contract areas in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Data of such good resolution for the deep sea is quite scarce, with the usual resolution being around 500m x 500m at best.

The data is being processed by the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (IHO DCDB), which will then make it publicly available as part of the GEBCO Grid. The IHO DCDB is hosted by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Source: IHO.



ISA licence areas in the Pacific Ocean.