



Seabed Minerals Authority
Runanga Takere Moana
COOK ISLANDS

**G02: Interim Guideline on Hazard Identification
and Risk Assessment**

Prepared by the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority

Table of Contents

1. Purpose.....	2
2. Legislative context	2
3. Scope.....	2
4. Other References.....	3
5. Version Control	3

1. Purpose

This Guideline is issued by the Seabed Minerals Authority (**Authority**) to assist Licence Holders to identify and use appropriate approaches and tools to conduct hazard identification and risk assessments, as required under the Seabed Minerals Act 2019 (**Act**).

Hazard identification and risk assessments are critical elements in risk management and the preparation of risk management documents. Exploration activities inherently involve some level of potential risk, whether to the environment, the health and safety of the personnel engaged or other marine users.

2. Legislative context

This Guideline is designed to provide practical guidance for Licence Holders seeking to meet the specific legal requirements relating to hazard identification, risk assessment and mitigation measures under the Act, Exploration Regulations and Standards. For example, this Guideline will be of use in preparing:

- a) Environmental Management Programme (**EMP**);¹
- b) Incident Response and Management Plan;²
- c) Occupational Health and Safety Plan³.

The contents of this document is for guidance only, and does not constitute formal legal requirements. Licence Holders remain subject to the applicable legal requirements under the Act, Exploration Regulations and Standards to undertake hazard identification and risk assessment.

3. Scope

Annex A, attached to this document, provides guidance on the tools and techniques for undertaking Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment⁴. Whilst it is only a guideline the Authority may use it to determine whether the Licence Holder has:

- a) applied a fit for purpose approach to identification of risks and risk assessment;
- b) adopted the precautionary approach; and
- c) taken all necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control hazards, as well as proposed measures to address such hazards.

¹ Schedule 3 of the Exploration Regulations

² Schedule 3 of the Exploration Regulations

³ Schedule 1 Clause 11 of the Exploration Regulations

⁴ Annex A has been adapted from a guideline issued by the International Seabed Authority

https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/tools_and_techniques_for_hazard_identification_and_risk_assessments.pdf

If a Licence Holder chooses not to follow any particular part of this Guideline, it must provide, in writing to the Authority, an adequate explanation as to why, and set out how the method used instead is fit for purpose.

4. Other References

https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/tools_and_techniques_for_hazard_identification_and_risk_assessments.pdf (as of December 2021)

Disclaimer: This document, developed by the Seabed Minerals Authority, does not replace or amend the requirements of the Seabed Minerals Act 2019 and associated regulations, and exploration licence obligations which should be read in conjunction with this Guideline.

It is made available on the understanding that the Cook Islands Government is not thereby engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice. Before relying on this material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes, and obtain appropriate legal or other professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.

It is anticipated the Guideline will be amended from time to time. The most up-to-date version of this Guideline is available at www.sbma.gov.ck.

5. Version Control

Rev	Date
Version 1	7 September 2022