

Western University

Scholarship@Western

---

Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of  
Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and  
Creative Activity

Inspiring Minds

---

November 2022

## Deep Seabed Mining versus Marine Conservation: Closing High Seas Governance Gaps in the Arctic Ocean

Carol K. Dyck

Western University, [cdyck22@uwo.ca](mailto:cdyck22@uwo.ca)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds>

---

### Citation of this paper:

Dyck, Carol K., "Deep Seabed Mining versus Marine Conservation: Closing High Seas Governance Gaps in the Arctic Ocean" (2022). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 311.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/311>

The current push to electrify transportation in response to climate change has sparked growing interest in deep seabed mineral resources. Commercial exploitation is now imminent. Scientists and policy-makers warn that gaps in international law and governance leave highly biodiverse and poorly understood ecosystems unprotected and species at risk of extinction. My research will analyze the Draft Exploitation Regulations of the International Seabed Authority's Mining Code governing deep seabed mining, and their relationship to the forthcoming Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. I will focus on the Arctic region, where melting sea ice is rapidly altering the marine environment, opening the area to new economic activity. My geographical approach is intended to contribute to wider discussions regarding the appropriateness of deep seabed mining, and will include policy recommendations to establish high seas marine protected areas in the Central Arctic Ocean.