

# Areas of open questions related to international law

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# Open International Law Questions with Broad Implications

- ▶ Customary international law
- ▶ Responsibility of State parties and contractors
- ▶ Overlapping and adjacent claims
- ▶ Security of tenure

# State Party Responsibilities Under Article 137 and 139

## Article 137

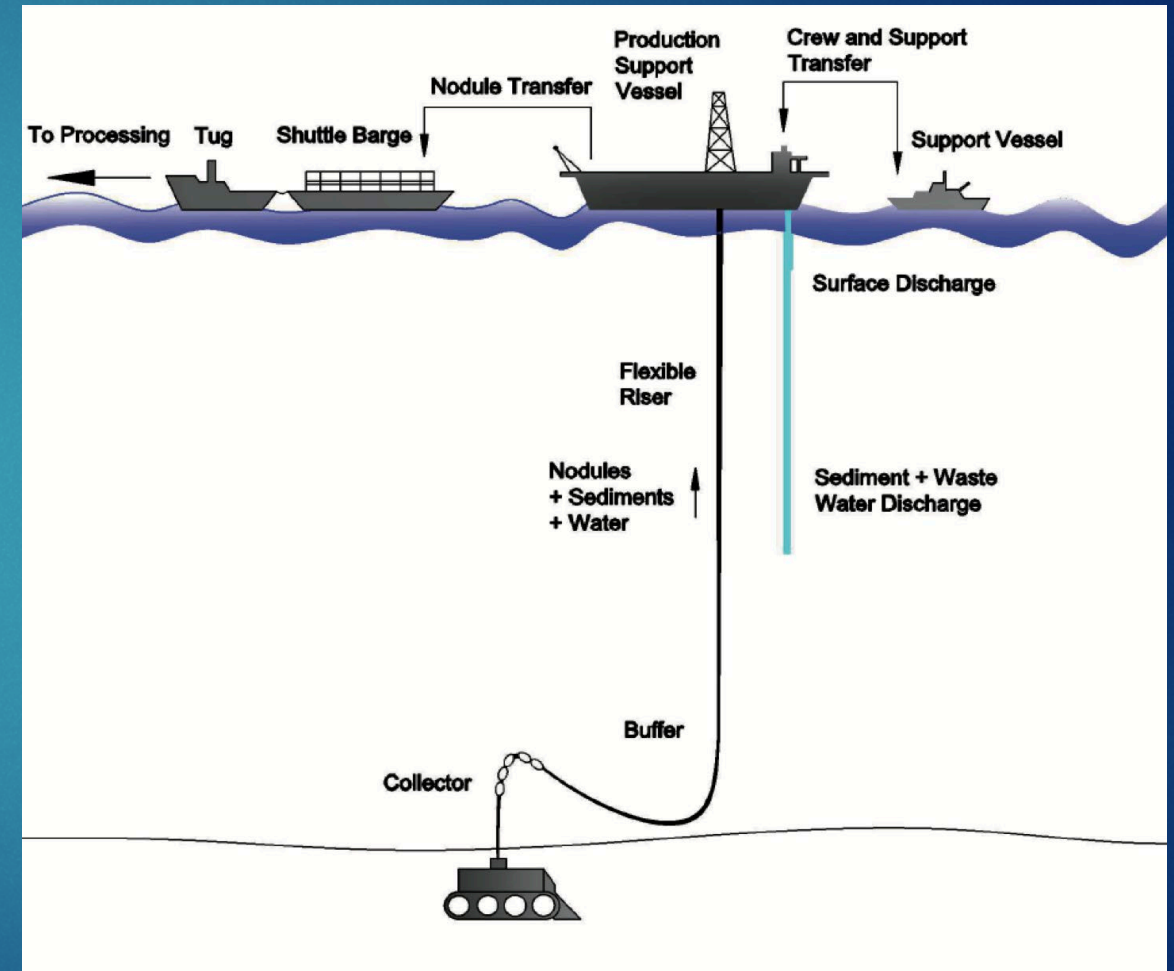
### *Legal status of the Area and its resources*

1. No State shall claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the Area or its resources, nor shall any State or natural or juridical person appropriate any part thereof. No such claim or exercise of sovereignty or sovereign rights nor such appropriation shall be recognized.

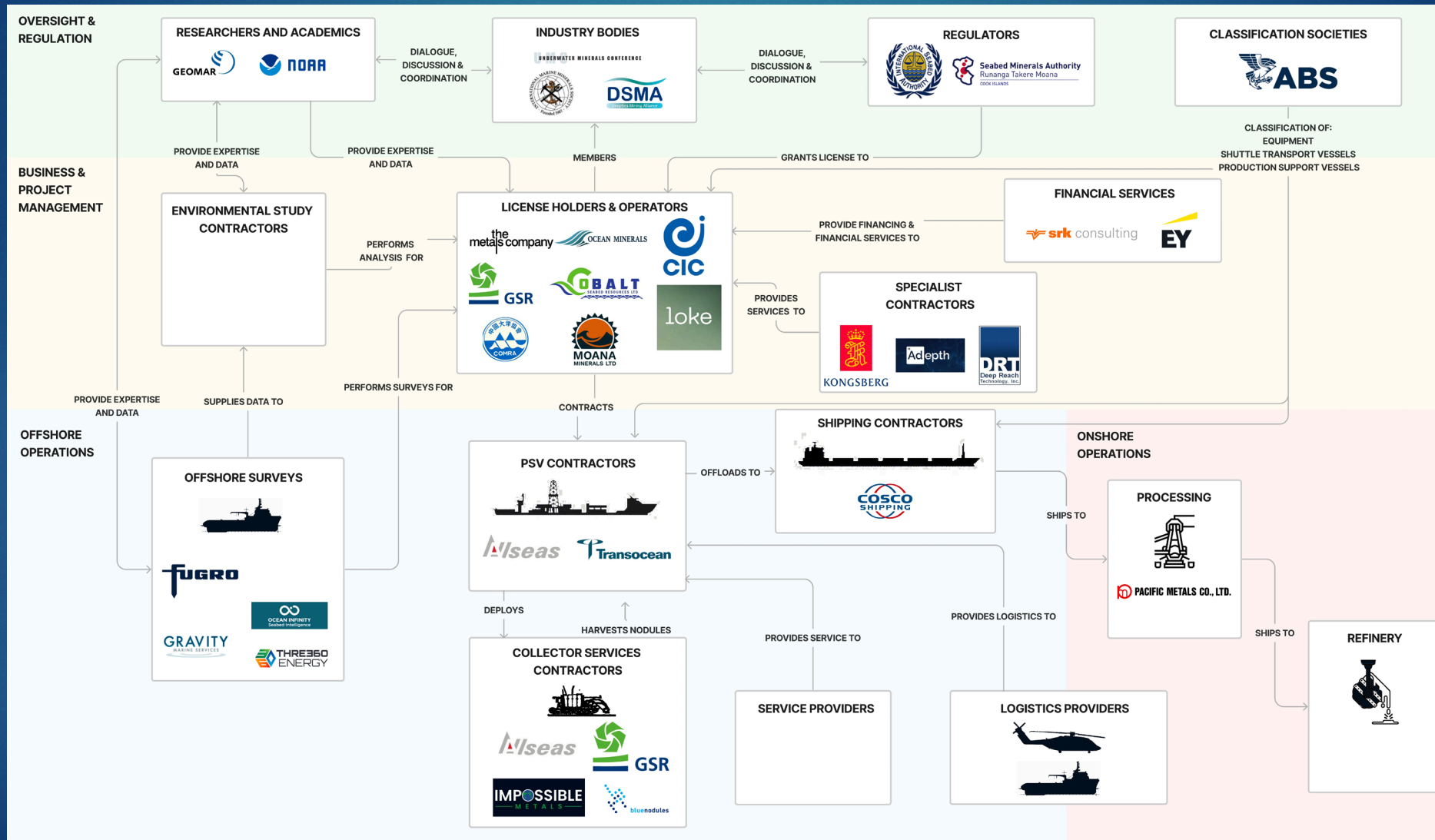
## Article 139

### *Responsibility to ensure compliance and liability for damage*

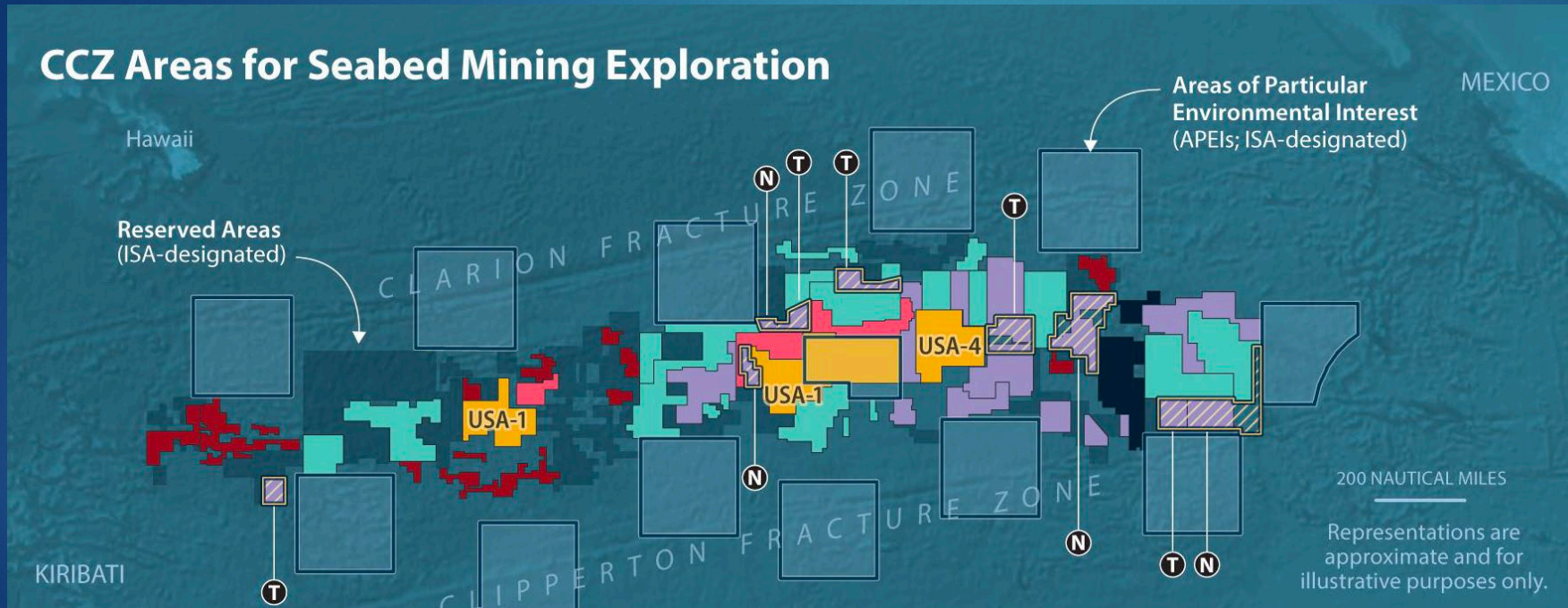
1. States Parties shall have the responsibility to ensure that activities in the Area, whether carried out by States Parties, or state enterprises or natural or juridical persons which possess the nationality of States Parties or are effectively controlled by them or their nationals, shall be carried out in conformity with this Part. The same responsibility applies to international organizations for activities in the Area carried out by such organizations.



# Deep-Sea Mining Ecosystem



# Mining in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ)



**U.S. Licenses and Permits**  
NOAA issues licenses and permits to U.S. companies under the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (30 U.S.C. §§1401 et seq.).

**ISA-Issued Contracts**

- China
- Russia
- IOM
- U.S. Allies
- Other Countries

NOAA is currently reviewing applications submitted in 2025. Many of the 2025 requested exploration blocks (hatched areas) overlap with ISA contract areas assigned to **T** Tonga and **N** Nauru.

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