

## **The applicable law of seabed activities**

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### **Summary**

When commercial activities, such as mining, are carried out in the Area, a framework of commercial law is as helpful on sea as on land. For example, workers should be protected against unfair contract terms, and entrepreneurs should be able to mortgage their equipment to ease financing. However, there is no state to provide this legal framework by general legislation. Could it be established in other ways? Possible candidate legislators are the International Seabed Authority, sponsoring states of entrepreneurs, flag states, and others. The paper discusses the possibilities and limits to each of the alternatives, and the choice of law if more than one set of legislation is applicable.