

 Columbia **Law School** | COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW

International Governance of Ocean Iron Fertilization
Research

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Background on International Regulation

- 1972 – London Convention
 - Addresses ocean pollution
 - 87 countries are parties (including the U.S.)
- 1996 – London Protocol
 - Operates in parallel to the LC
 - 56 countries are parties (the U.S. is not a party)
- 2007 – Statement of Concern
- 2008 – Resolution LC-LP.1
- 2010 – Resolution LC-LP.2

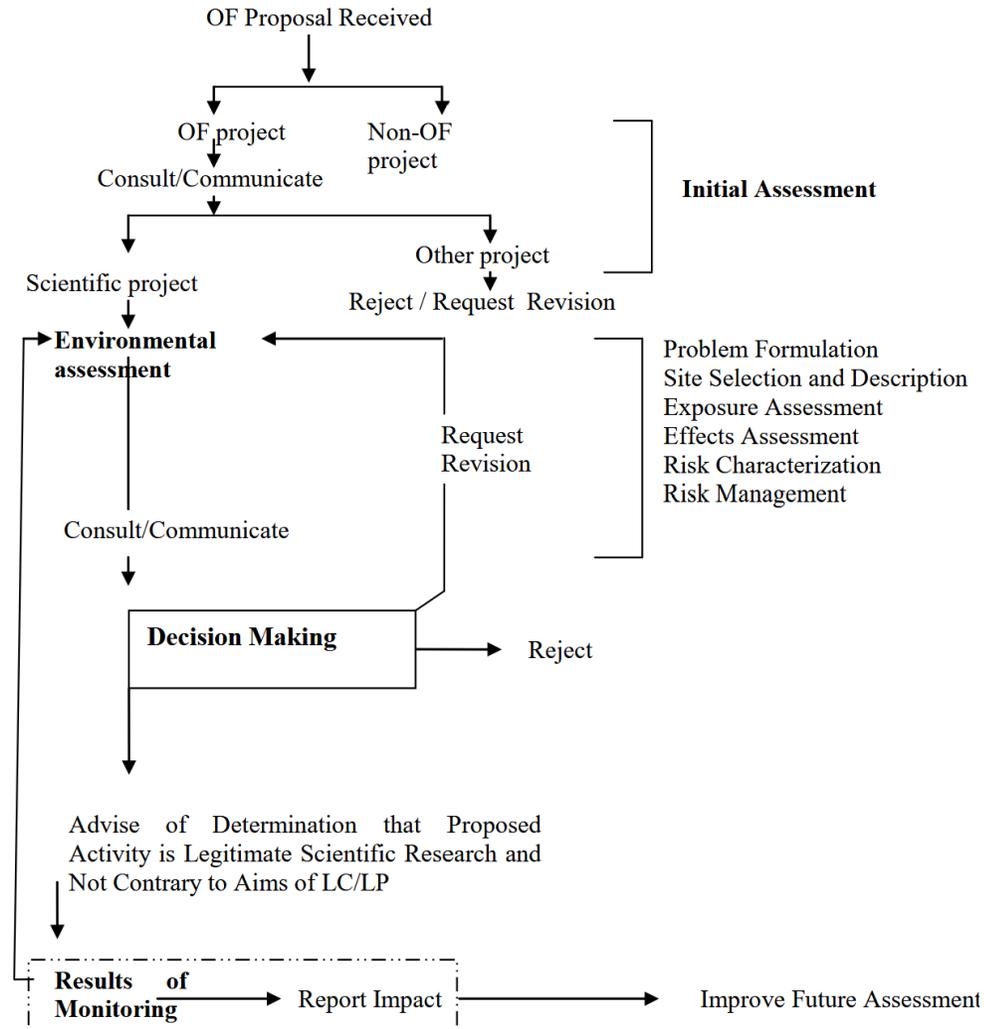


Permitting OIF under the LC/LP

- 2008 Resolution - the scope of the London Convention and Protocol includes ocean fertilization activities
 - legitimate scientific research [into OIF] should be regarded as placement of matter for a purpose other than mere disposal thereof
 - projects that qualify as “legitimate scientific research” should be evaluated “on a case-by-case basis” to determine whether they are “contrary to the aims of the” LC and LP.
- 2010 Resolution – incorporates the Assessment Framework
 - Determines whether a project qualifies as legitimate scientific research and whether it is, or is not, contrary to the aims of the LC and LP
 - conditions are in place that ensure that, as far as practicable, environmental disturbance and detriment would be minimized and the scientific benefits maximized



Assessment Framework



Recommendations

- Financial and/or economic gain
 - What does it mean?
 - Is it necessary?
- Considering the benefits of OIF
 - Precautionary principle
 - Balance the adverse principles against the benefits
- Community Engagement
 - Mandate prior consultations (ex. BBNJ)
 - Mandate ongoing monitoring and inclusion

