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**Intergovernmental Conference on an international
legally binding instrument under the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea on the
conservation and sustainable use of marine biological
diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction**

Second session

New York, 25 March–5 April 2019

**Letter dated 14 February 2019 from the Executive Secretary
of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed to the
Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference on an
international legally binding instrument under the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and
sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond
national jurisdiction**

I wish to bring to your attention that, at its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision 14/9, entitled “Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas”.

In paragraph 1 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the scientific and technical information contained in the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-second meeting, as contained in annex I to the decision, based on the reports of the two regional workshops for describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and in the Baltic Sea, and requested the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports in the repository of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, in line with the purpose and procedures set out in decisions X/29, XI/17, XII/22 and XIII/12.

Pursuant to those requests, I have the honour to transmit to you the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, which comprise the tables in the annex to decision 14/9, for submission to the Intergovernmental Conference at its second session.



I also wish to draw your attention to previous communications, dated 12 May 2017, 12 February 2015 and 19 March 2013, whereby the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the summaries of the results of three series of regional workshops on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (available as documents [A/72/491](#), [A/69/794](#) and [A/67/838](#), respectively).

Decision 14/9, including its annex containing the summary reports, is available on the website of the Convention (www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-14).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the second session of the Conference.

(Signed) **Cristiana Paşca Palmer**
Executive Secretary
