How many deep sea gold lockers can be placed

Overview

With an estimated $150 trillion in gold under our oceans, or nine pounds of gold for every person on Earth, 26 permits have now been issued by international authorities and countries around the world to begin preparations for undersea mining, focused mostly in the Pacific Ocean. While nations can currently pursue deep-sea mining in their own domestic waters, the world is still awaiting exploitation regulations from the UN's International Seabed Authority (ISA) that will dictate whether and how it could proceed in international waters, where the bulk of the ocean's critical. Deep sea mining is the extraction of minerals from the seabed of the deep sea. The main ores of commercial interest are polymetallic nodules, which are found at depths of 4–6 km (2. 7 mi) primarily on the abyssal plain. The Clarion–Clipperton zone (CCZ) alone contains over 21 billion metric tons. Deep-sea mining is the process of exploring the deep seabed and retrieving minerals like cobalt and manganese (used in things like rechargeable batteries, smartphones, and steel), as well as gold, nickel, and rare earth elements. They're releasing high-tech sonar systems, AUVs equipped with fancy sensors, and ROVs that grab samples like underwater treasure.

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Risks and Opportunities in Deep Sea Gold Mining

China and Japan are currently dominating the deep-sea gold mining tech race. China's got five exploration licenses and is killin' it with subsea robotics, while Japan's JOGMEC is pushing ...

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Science & Tech Spotlight: Deep-Sea Mining , U.S. GAO

Researchers currently lack data on the extent to which sediment plumes from deep-sea mining could affect ecosystems or spread to other countries on ocean currents.

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What We Know About Deep-Sea Mining -- and What We Don't

While exploratory mining to test equipment has occurred at a small scale, deep-sea mining has not yet been undertaken commercially. But some national governments and mining ...

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Deep-sea Mining FAQ

Natural hydrothermal geysers on the deep ocean floor regularly vent rich concentrations of metals and minerals from the earth's core, forming valuable seams on the ocean floor that can yield up to 10 ...

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Science & Tech Spotlight: Deep-Sea Mining , U.S. GAO

Why This MattersThe TechnologyOpportunitiesChallengesPolicy Context and QuestionsThe ocean floor contains vast quantities of critical minerals vital for many applications, such as aircraft components and rechargeable batteries. Increased demand for such minerals has driven technology development for exploration and extraction from deep-sea mining. However, the long-term environmental effects from deep-sea mining are as yet unkn See more on gao.govCenter for Biological Diversity[PDF]

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Deep sea mining

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Deep sea mining

OverviewDeposit typesDeposit sitesDeep sea mining projectsExtraction methodsProcessEnvironmental impactsLaws and regulations

Deep sea mining is the extraction of minerals from the seabed of the deep sea. The main ores of commercial interest are polymetallic nodules, which are found at depths of 4-6 km (2.5-3.7 mi) primarily on the abyssal plain. The Clarion-Clipperton zone (CCZ) alone contains over 21 billion metric tons of these nodules, with minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese making up roughly 30% of their weight. It is esti...

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Some small-scale exploratory mining has already taken place to test deep-sea mining equipment, but no commercial mining of the seabed has yet occurred. However, some mining ...

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Underwater gold mining is becoming more popular due to new technology and exploration methods. There are vast reserves of gold hidden beneath the ocean, waiting to be ...

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Is there gold in the ocean?

One study found there is only about one gram of gold for every 100 million metric

tons of ocean water in the Atlantic and north Pacific. There is also (undissolved) gold in/on the seafloor. The ...

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