

Paul Lynch LLb./B.A. MBA
Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner

under the Minister of Minerals and Natural Resources
Cook Islands Government
Rarotonga,
Cook Islands



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Paul Lynch is a practicing Cook Islands lawyer with over 25 years of wide and varied legal experience, in the private sector, and then the public sector, firstly for the **National Environment Service** in 2005 and then the **Crown Law Office** as Senior Crown Counsel and Legislative Drafter.

In August 2012, he was formally appointed as the first **Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner**, under the Cook Islands **Seabed Minerals Act 2009**.

He is now a recognised expert in the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals sector, having prepared the first ever Report in 2011 on the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals sector, which has a unique abundance of Manganese Nodules of 10 billion tonnes in its almost 2 million km² EEZ.

He also helped guide the successful **Cook Islands Sponsoring State Application** to the **International Seabed Authority**, which was granted in 2014 and signed in 2016. This is linked with CIIC and GSR (Belgium). In 2015, the Cook Islands completed its Regulatory Framework for Exploration Licencing, based on best international practices and environmental standards. Since 2015, several seabed minerals related reserve Agreements have been entered into by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) on behalf of the Cook Islands Government.

He holds Law/Arts combined degrees, a Masters of Business Administration and is currently studying for his Masters of Environmental Laws. He studied legislative Drafting at the University of London in 2007.

He resides in Rarotonga, is married with one daughter. On his maternal side, he is related to a senior chiefly and landowning family on the main island of Rarotonga.