

1 **Threatened by mining, polymetallic nodules are required to preserve**
2 **abyssal epifauna**

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17 **Supplementary Materials**

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19 Table S1-1. Transect data. The nodule coverage is presented in percentage. The age of the experimental
 20 mining simulations and trawl tracks is indicated between brackets for the transects marked with *.
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Station	License area	Length (m)	Image width (m)	Nodule coverage % (mean \pm sd)
S0239_041	BGR	320	4	15.0 \pm 2.6
S0239_064	BGR	870	4	0.3 \pm 0.1
S0239_082	IOM	320	2	41.3 \pm 5.3
S0239_082	IOM	410	2	44.3 \pm 3.6
S0239_101	IOM	380	2	0.5 \pm 0.2
S0239_101 *	IOM	250	2.9	0 (20 yr)
S0239_131	GSR	420	2	24.4 \pm 2.7
S0239_141	GSR	450	2	21.9 \pm 5.6
S0239_141 *	GSR	200	2.6	0 (0.7 yr)
S0239_157	IFREMER	400	2	29.5 \pm 2.9
S0239_157 *	IFREMER	200	2.5	0 (37 yr)
S0239_161	IFREMER	450	2	0.6 \pm 0.2
S0239_161 *	IFREMER	200	2.2	0 (3 yr)
S0239_189	APEI	400	2	41.6 \pm 3.4
S0239_189	APEI	350	2	43.5 \pm 5.2
S0239_200	APEI	400	2	85.4 \pm 5.0
S0239_200	APEI	400	2	92.1 1.5

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