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International Legal Governance of the Oceans

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Relevant questions

- What is international ocean governance?
- What is the main legal setting for international ocean governance?
- Why is the international legal governance of the oceans so difficult?
- What are the main issues and tools for future ocean governance?

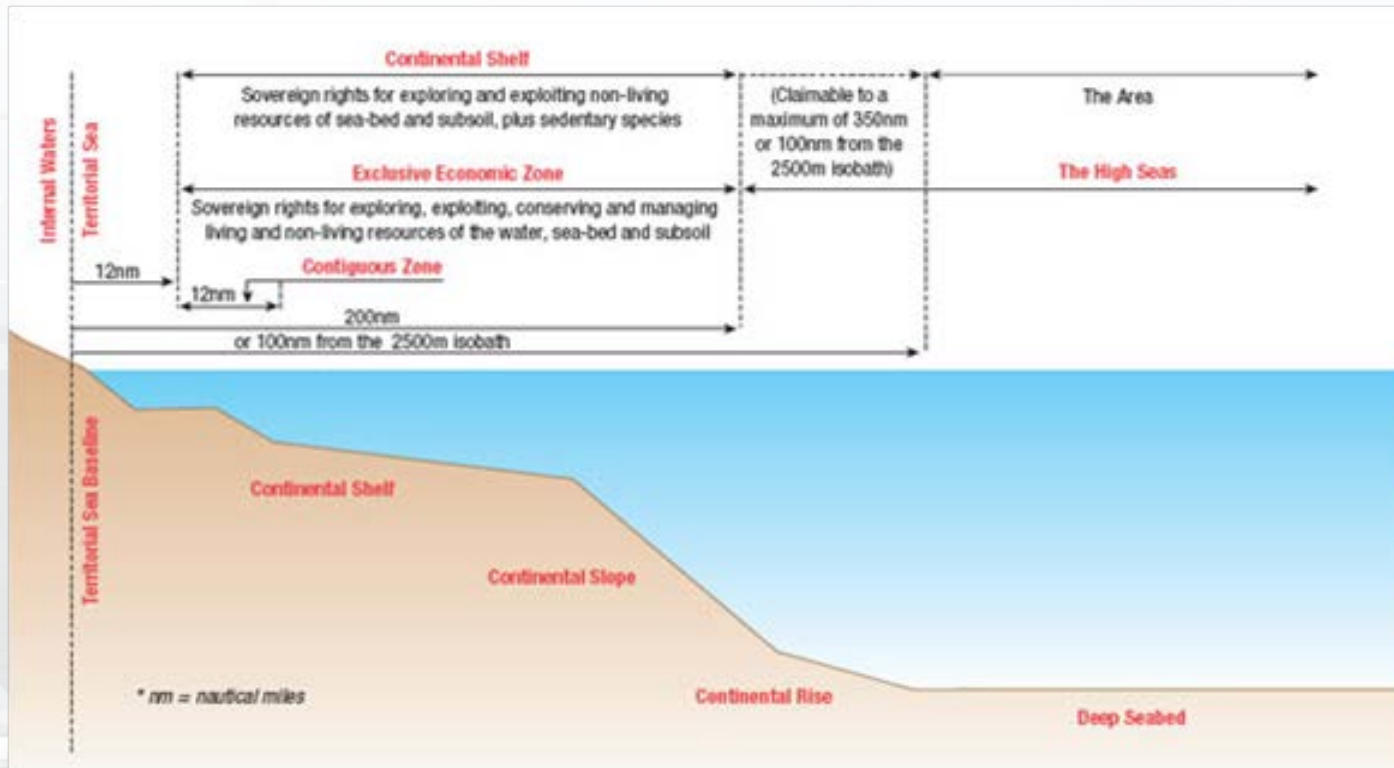
What is international ocean governance?

- Decision-making on all issues related to the different uses of the oceans in an international context
- Political considerations that simultaneously shape international law while being bound it
- International law is one tool of ocean governance

What is the main legal setting for international ocean governance?

- Maritime zones govern the degree of sovereignty of coastal States
- Governance of the global commons depends upon cooperation and the degree to which international institutions have a mandate to regulate

What is the main legal setting for international ocean governance?



What is the main legal setting for international ocean governance?

- Multitude of international treaties on different issues related to the oceans
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as the main legal framework
- Soft law

Why is international legal governance of the oceans so difficult?

- In principle, international law is only as effective as it is supported by the political will of States
- Certain fundamental principles like the reliance upon flag-state jurisdiction on the high seas are obstacles to more effective regulation

What are the main issues and tools for future ocean governance?

- Dynamic treaties and strong institutions
- More effective compliance control e.g. by port States
- Better interaction between policy-making, law and science
- Integrated processes to balance different uses of the oceans



Thank you!



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