

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

2C – Maritime Governance

Chair: Steven Haines, University of Greenwich

Exploring a rights system for marine bioprospecting in Norway

Frode Flemsæter, Ruralis - Institute for Rural and Regional Research, Norway

Abstract:

The ocean is currently about to be re-discovered and explored beyond established practices such as in the oil and fisheries, attracting stakeholders previously not that concerned with these marine areas. Marine bioprospecting is the process of discovering, analyzing, processing and commercializing genes or biomolecules from bacteria, algae or animals in the ocean or at the ocean floor. There are great expectations from authorities and researchers that marine bioprospecting can have major effects on the development of 'Norway's new oil', through producing medicine as well as food, fodder and cosmetics. A key issue in this process is questions regarding rights to access, collect and utilize resources, and the sharing of costs and benefits, which are potentially high in both ends. This is a very complex situation trying to manage private rights in shared seascapes, involving national as well as international actors. Marine bioprospecting in Norway is regulated by the Nature Diversity Act and the Marine Resources Act, both stating that the resources in the ocean belong to the public. However, none of the acts provides a detailed framework for how access rights, utilization, and cost/benefit sharing should be organized in practice. Therefore, at present Norway does not have a functioning regulatory system for marine bioprospecting. Currently, a state driven process aims to better regulate and control bioprospecting. However, this has proved challenging. In this paper we explore moral and spatio-legal aspects of establishing a rights system for marine bioprospecting in Norway. We draw on the legal geography literature, and present a discourse analysis of the process of establishing these new regulations.

Keywords: Bioprospecting, Governance, Regulation, Legal geography, Norway

Biography:

Frode Flemsæter has a PhD in Geography from Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). He currently works as a senior researcher at Ruralis - Institute for Rural and Regional Research. Flemsæter has particular interests within the fields of legal geography and moral landscapes, which includes work on land ownership and property relations, including commodifications of the outfields and the seas and the power geometries related to use and protection of valuable land- and seascapes.

Broadening the perspective on ocean privatization

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Abstract:

Privatization and enclosure of oceans and coasts is widely visible. Might it be booming tourism activities along the coast or increasing population pressure, the emergence of private cages or pens in aquaculture, the installation of (private) MPAs, the installation of more strictly defined (or transferable) fishing rights, the rising interest in exploring and exploiting the seabed or even the privatisation of governance, where certification agencies determine what sustainable governance means. In comparison to other resources on land, privatisation in the oceans is happening rather lately. On land property rights are defined for any square meter and ownership is claimed, if not by the state. Attributes of rights are very diverse and spelled out with much

detail. In this sense the ocean is lagging behind. Privatisation may bring clear benefits (either to some or to society as a whole) as well as bears costs to society. Looking at this privatisation process of the oceans to a large degree lying in front of us, and which most likely will come inevitably as a result of current socio-economic and political system, looking at other processes in history (Beckert, 2009), it seems reasonable to look at potential advantages and disadvantages of privatisation from a sustainable governance perspective and to spell out the potential effects for the various areas where privatisation (the definition of more exclusive property rights) is taking place.

Keywords: Privatisation, institutions, property rights, sustainability Ocean

Maritime Governance in the South Atlantic

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Abstract:

This paper aims at presenting the efforts of the South Atlantic countries towards the construction of a maritime governance structure in the region. It focuses on the actions of the Brazilian government, both in its domestic sphere as well as in different regional initiatives. Maritime governance is understood as a key factor for the international community to benefit from the ocean economy while facing the correspondent challenges related to the marine environment's health. The argument is that the potential for the economic use of the oceans can only be developed within a stable context, both regarding security against threats and sustainable exploitation of resources. Such achievement depends on States working together in order to provide and enhance maritime security tools that enable regional stability, exploring the connection between economy, security and environment. The Brazilian "Blue Amazon" concept embraces a maritime area equivalent to almost two million square miles of abundant biodiversity, geodiversity and energy supply. Its size and complexity demand a comprehensive strategy that includes interdisciplinary studies and a perspective of Brazilian understandings about the opportunities and challenges inherent to its prominent position in the Southern Seas. The paper reviews the literature on maritime governance in the South Atlantic, drawing on international, regional and national initiatives such as those by the United Nations, the European Union and the South American countries. We focus on the Brazilian reality and its political and strategic approach towards the South Atlantic basin, especially considering the country's interests within its vast jurisdictional waters. The Blue Amazon is closely examined under the concept of blue economy and appoints to the need for a governance and security framework as a premise for the sustainable and equitable use of the sea.

Keywords: Maritime Governance. Security. South Atlantic. Brazil. Blue Amazon.

Biographies:

William de Sousa Moreira, Navy Captain (Ret.), Brazilian Navy, is Professor at the Brazilian Naval War College (Escola de Guerra Naval EGN, Rio de Janeiro) and the Co-ordinator of the Postgraduate Programme in Maritime Studies (PPGEM-EGN). He is the Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisor of EGN and a researcher at the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. He received his PhD in Political Science from the Fluminense Federal University (UFF). He currently researches science and military technology trends and impacts on maritime security, strategy, and force planning, with a focus on South Atlantic region.

Rita de Cassia Oliveira Feodrippe, Graduate student in the Master's Program of Maritime Studies at the Brazilian Naval War College. Holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations by Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), in Brazil. Professional experience in the shipping market, at the company Vale. Research experiences in the field of international maritime law by the Ministry of Culture, Brazil. Academic interests in Political Science, International Affairs, Strategy, Security and Defense.