

Final Conference of the Sustainable Ocean Project

Accommodating Multiple Interests at Sea

3-4 September 2020

(ONLINE – REGISTER!!!)

Oceans are increasingly under pressure; be it due to the multiplication and diversification of economic activities performed at sea, the ensuing worsening of their environmental status or the consequences of climate change to mention but a few. . Several international bodies and a plethora of international instruments regulate, influence and shape what is happening in the oceans. Moreover, a variety of non-State actors actively participate at different levels of governance in what is commonly called ocean governance. But what is ocean governance? Which are the different actors and instruments involved? How do they interact (if at all) with each other in dealing with ocean affairs? Those are some of the questions that the [Sustainable Ocean project](#) (ERC grant agreement No 639070) has been dealing with since 2015 in order to answer the overarching research question: how can law contribute to the sustainable use of the ocean and strike a balance between competing interests at sea?

The Sustainable Ocean project is now pleased to announce its final conference, which will take place in the form of an online webinar on 3-4 September 2020. Against the backdrop of the project's overarching research question, the conference focuses on the different legal mechanisms which govern the balance of competing interests when there is an element of novelty and regulatory uncertainty in the considered factual scenario. The novelty may lie in new uses (e.g., geoengineering, renewable energy, restoration activities) and users of the ocean (e.g., classification societies; NGOs), the development of new technologies for 'old' uses (e.g., the navigation of unmanned vessels, the use of drones for maritime surveillance), or the progressive development of our understanding of relevant environmental challenges (e.g., consequences of climate change on the oceans, the existence of biological diversity in the deepest waters).

The Sustainable Ocean project has focused on four 'legal tools'/techniques, which allow interests protected by the existing legal framework, in particular the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to be balanced with novel and newly emerging interests. Those four legal tools/techniques serve as the conference's central themes:

1. Due diligence as an obligation and as a balancing standard;
2. The role of regionalism in the global framework as a mechanism for the accommodation of multiple interests;

3. Balancing principles in the interpretation of international law;
4. The role of state consent and the participation of other actors in international law making and law implementation.

Three distinguished keynote speakers will engage with these four topics and share their insights: [Prof. Jutta Brunnée](#) (University of Toronto), [Prof. Malgosia Fitzmaurice](#) (Queen Mary University) and [Prof. Catherine Redgwell](#) (University of Oxford).

The conference will take place via **Zoom**. A limited number of participants will be allowed to actively participate in the discussions. Please register before **24 August 2020** by using the registration links below.

The conference will also be streamed live on the [webpage](#) of the Sustainable Ocean project and the recording of the sessions will be subsequently made available. For any query, do not hesitate to contact us (sustainableocean@uu.nl).

Thursday 3 September 2020 (Utrecht time – CEST)

10.00- 11.00 | Opening Session

- Introductory Remarks | Seline Trevisanut (Utrecht University)
- *Chaos or Coherence? Reconciling Multiple Ocean Uses* | keynote speech by Catherine Redgwell (University of Oxford)

11.30-12.30 | Session 1 – Due diligence as an obligation and as a balancing standard

- *The Role of the Intergenerational Equity Principle in Performing Due Diligence* | Carlos Antonio Cruz Carrillo (Graduate Institute Geneva)
- *New Techniques for “Old” Uses: Earth Observation Systems (Satellites and Drones) and Private Platforms in the Fight against IUU Fishing* | Efthymios Papastavridis (University of Oxford)
- *Marine Spatial Planning: Reconciling Conflicting Interests in South African Waters via Due Diligence* | Tajudeen Sanni (Kampala International University) & Dennig N. Metuge (Nelson Mandela University)

Please register to Session 1 through the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pmG7I_ERTXKYDBu82n8F7w

15.00-15.50

- *Due Diligence in International Environmental Law: Between Procedure and Substance* | keynote speech by Jutta Brunnée (University of Toronto)

16.15-17.15 | Session 2 – The role of regionalism in accommodating multiple interests in the global framework

- *The Role of Regional Environmental Arrangements in the Regulation of Offshore Energy Production* | Nikolaos Giannopoulos (Utrecht University)
- *Bringing Global Institutions to Collaborate with Regional Regimes: Towards a Role for the International Seabed Authority within the Antarctic Treaty System* | Nicolas Kempf (University of Montreal)
- *The 2030 Seabed Survey Project: Re-Discussing the Definition of Marine Scientific Research and Accommodating Interest of New Stakeholders at Sea and of the Caribbean and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* | Luciana Fernandes Coelho (World Maritime University)

Please register to Session 2 through the following link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T7bbGxS0SEesc9B2GBT8Gw

Friday 4 September 2020 (Utrecht time – CEST)

10.00-11.00 | Session 3 – Balancing principles in international law interpretation

- *Balancing Principles under UNCLOS as an Opening for Evolutionary Treaty Interpretation* | Rozemarijn Roland Holst (Utrecht University)
- *The Role of Customary International Law Interpretation in the Balancing of Interests at Sea: The Example of Prevention* | Nina Mileva (University of Groningen)
- *The Fragmented Nature of Ocean Acidification Governance by Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Synergies and Conflicts Across an Emergent Regime Complex* | Ellycia Harrould-Kolieb (University of Melbourne)

11.30-12.20

- *Consent, International Environmental Law and Legitimacy* | keynote speech by Malgosia Fitzmaurice (Queen Mary University)

Please register to Session 3 through the following link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YPUz3FocRCeO-R9smiydtA

15.00-16.00 | Session 4 – State consent and other actors

- *Standing Between Navigation and the Marine Environment: Classification Societies and Their Role in Implementing the Ballast Water Management Convention* | Zhongyu Li (Kyoto University) & Makoto Seta (Yokohama City University)

- *Non-State Actors: Chartering Novel Pathways to Combat IUU fishing with and without States* | Anastasia Telesetsky (University of Idaho)
- *Combatting Overfishing with Trade-Restrictive Measures: State Consent, Legitimacy, and the Role of Multilateral Governance* | Geraldo Vidigal (University of Amsterdam)

16.00-16.15 | Closing remarks by the Sustainable Ocean team

Please register to Session 4 through the following link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_egFQ7R8aTCSajhxeFLCEow