

Proposed Regimes for the Sea Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction

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In this Article, the Author submits that there is a need for regimes and an international machinery vested with juridical personality which will govern the use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor in order to regulate the discovery and use of immense resources which can be found in the said areas. The purpose of this proposition is to promote peace and stability in the oceans.

He notes the significant principles adopted from the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction and states that it is the “common heritage of mankind” which seems to be the basis of these principles. He then proceeds into a critical analysis of the different treaty articles which were proposed to govern the sea-bed and the ocean floor. Finally, he enumerates the different concepts which seem to govern their enactment such as a.) an equitable sharing of benefits derived from the sea-bed, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries, b.) the prevention of pollution and the preservation of the marine environment, and c.) the use of the sea-bed and ocean floor should be reserved exclusively for peaceful purposes.