

The high seas and the deep oceans: Representations, resources and regulatory governance (3ROceans)

A research project funded by The Norwegian Research Council and Norwegian University of Science and Technology.
November 2016 - November 2020

Presentation for the
Future Ocean group
Kiel December 9; 2016

Who we are:

- A group of historians and cultural theory researchers (political, economic, art, literature, technology)
- A group of maritime law specialists

- Participants

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

University of Oslo

University of New South Wales (Sidney)

Catholic University of Portugal

DNV GL



Our motivation:

- Our oceans are ecologically in peril and a regulatory disaster. While problems are widely acknowledged, the governance of the sea remains woefully inadequate.
- The safeguarding and care of what lies beyond national borders and jurisdiction is particularly acute.
- Our belief is that historical and cultural perspectives might bring a better understanding of today's situation and maybe also gives input to how it might be remedied.
- It is our duty also to bring our results and perspectives to a wider audience

Representations, resources and regulatory governance

- Man's perspectives and ideas of the oceans have changed dramatically during the last 300 years; as have the ways the oceans have been governed and the type of resources that have been “harvested”.
- This project seeks to analyze how cultural and historical conditions underpin our use of the oceans and seeks to investigate the relationships between the
 - **representations**
 - **resources**
 - **and regulatory governance**

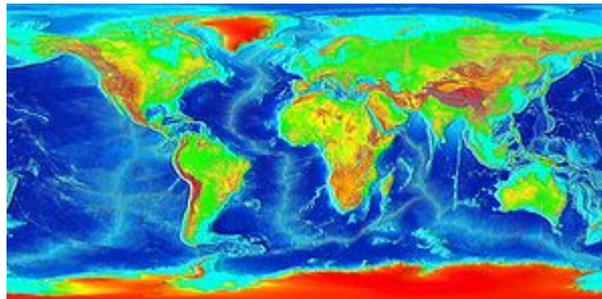


Theorizing resource modalities

We want to understanding the oceans through three different resource modalities:

As a **medium**; as an **asset** and as a **territory**

- A medium to be used, to be charted and developed,
- An asset to be explored and exploited,
- A territory to be established and controlled



3 Work packages

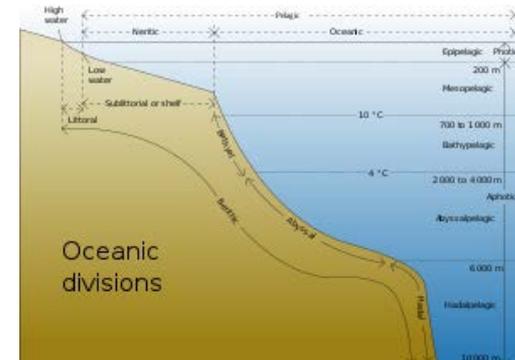


The three resource modalities structures the project

1. One group will relate to the ocean as a medium: From *Mare Oceanum* to *The High Seas* emphasizing representation; Sea maps in France in the enlightenment, and the new shipping regime at the turn of the century (1900); steam and the liberal age.
2. Another group will look into the ocean as an asset: the struggle for regulating fisheries, the fight over minerals, the quest for wave energy, the sea bottom as the heritage of mankind.

Work packages

3. The resource module connected to territory will be dealt with by a third group. One part will analyze how the modern mathematical and computer based representations contribute to create territories. Another will look at the legal regimes for underwater cultural heritage, and finally with the full perspective on the oceans, how will the freedom of the sea meet the new territorial claims for the ocean floor?



Further work and cooperation



- We think that the conceptualization of the ocean as structured by resource modalities have a larger potential for a dynamic study of ocean resources and their governance.
- We will therefore welcome new projects that could be made to fit our overall project idea. Some of these project are already under planning:
 - The resources of the Arctic and international law
 - Representation and use of the sea bottom through 150 years
 - Government of fisheries and fishery science (ICES)
 - Further work on UNCLOS I, II and III.
 - The future of classification and international law
 - International law and strong local actors (Britain 19th century, US Coast guard, EMSA)
 - Military and UNCLOS

The structure of the project: how to keep it together? 3 conferences and a book.

- During the four years we will have smaller workshops and write and publish scientific papers.
- We will, however, have three common conferences:
 - September 2017 at Shetland (in cooperation with UHI)
 - 2018 at Azores (In cooperation with CUP)
 - September/October 2019 in Trondheim
- The end result will be a well illustrated book on the ocean for a general audience that in a rather condensed form will convey our findings and perspectives. We might even call it a coffee table book.

