



# International Ocean Governance

A shared responsibility to improve the use, protection and management of the world's oceans

**SEAS AND OCEANS COVER 71% OF OUR PLANET,**  
and are fundamental for food, trade, energy and global environmental services.

**64%**

of marine waters are in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**230** FLAG STATES

All countries have free access to navigation and resources in the high seas although these rights are also associated with conditions and obligations.

**300** UN

Related entities are involved in international ocean governance, but there is no single overarching body.

**9.6 B** PEOPLE

The expected world population by 2050, resulting in more pollution and competition for resources.



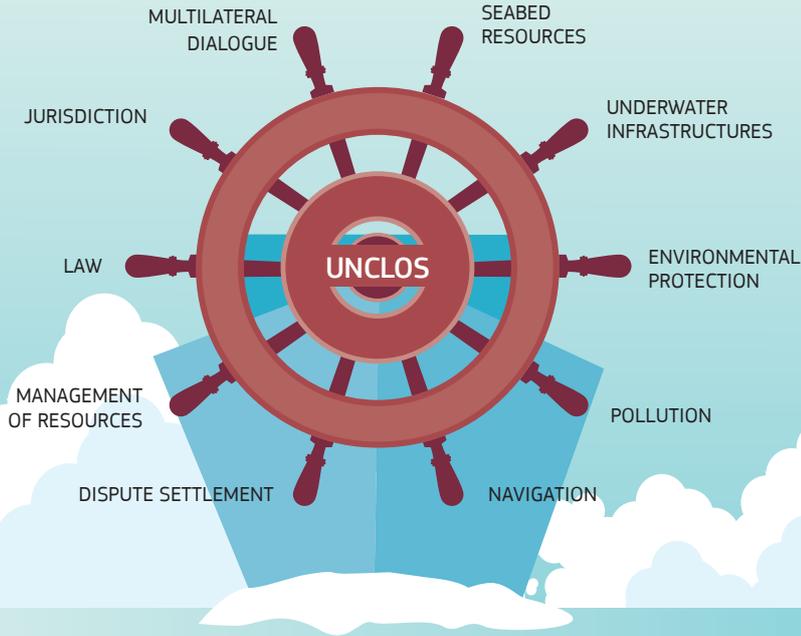
The current **INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE** framework has gaps and shortcomings that are aggravated by these and other new challenges.

**30 YEARS** after its negotiation, the multilateral framework for ocean governance needs updating. There is a shared perception that we **need more and better ocean governance**.

The diversity and intensity of **HUMAN ACTIVITIES**, including climate change, are causing a cumulative and profound **impact on global ocean systems**.

**Population growth**, increased demand per capita and growing resource scarcity are combined with innovative strategies and better technology to exploit ocean resources.

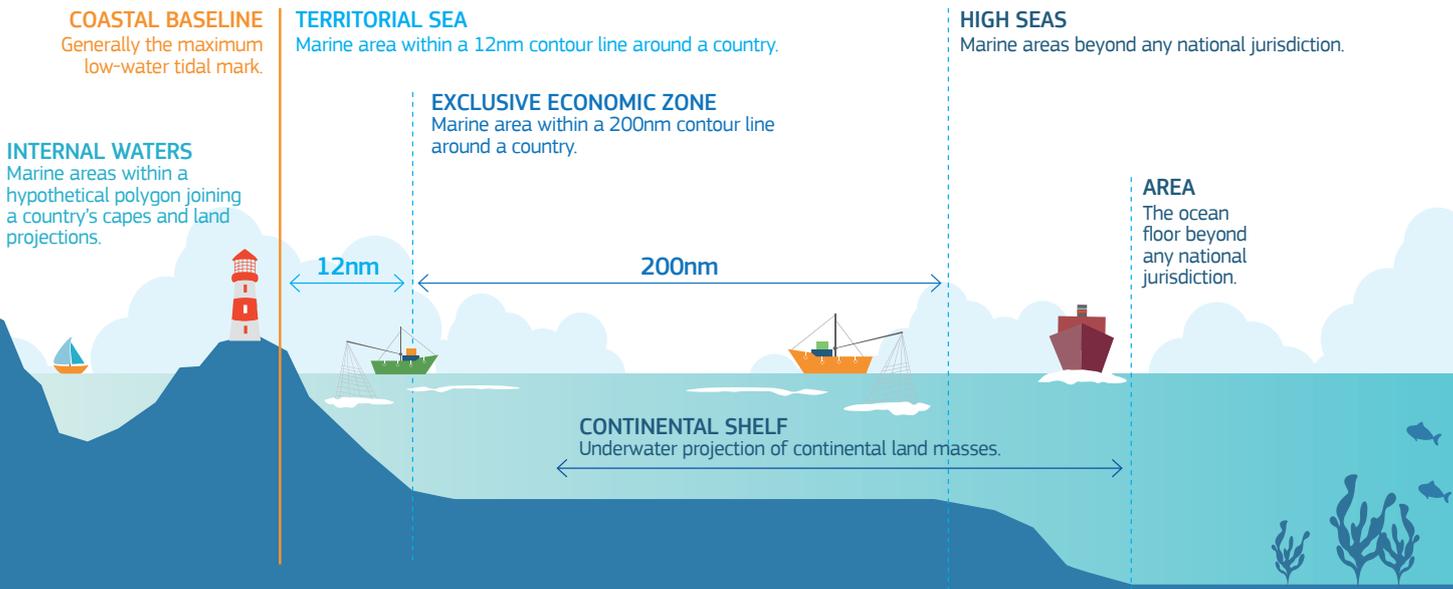
# UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)



UNCLOS is arguably the most complex agreement ever achieved: it took 9 years of negotiations until its signature in 1982, coming into force in 1994. Today there are 167 ratifying parties including the EU. Some states like USA, Turkey, Peru or Venezuela are however not parties

UNCLOS is complemented by a large number of conventions and agreements codifying international rights and responsibilities of the global commons, including for example the agreements for the management of straddling and migratory fish stocks, and for access to the minerals of the seabed beyond the continental shelf.

## The framework created by UNCLOS is based on delimiting different MARITIME AREAS



All activities and resources at sea are interconnected, including their overall impact on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. This complexity is not sufficiently considered under the sectorial approaches used, causing a lack of efficiency and poor coordination.

## IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE IS BOTH AN URGENT RESPONSIBILITY AND A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY.

The European Commission's mandate, is to work with all States and stakeholders to do so in a more holistic and sustainable way.