

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction and Shipping

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the potential impact on shipping of the current negotiations to operationalize and strengthen the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The four thematic clusters for the negotiations are:

- Marine genetic resources;
- Area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;
- Environmental impact assessments; and
- Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology (biotechnology).

At first glance, it may be difficult to discern the potential impacts on shipping. However, paradigms to consider include: 1) ship hull and propeller redesign to abate acoustic pollution that negatively impact marine species; 2) rerouting vessels to avoid a network of marine protected areas; and 3) using automatic identification systems and long-range identification and tracking as enforcement tools for ships on the high seas.

Keywords: *Shipping, biodiversity, UNCLOS, marine genetic resources, area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, marine technology*

References

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Biography

Ms. Bouchard has nearly 30 years of experience in the maritime policy and regulatory fields. She joined IRI as Maritime Policy Advisor in the fall of 2008 and was promoted to Senior Vice President, Regulatory Administration in 2014. Prior to joining IRI, Ms. Bouchard co-founded The SEALAW Group, a maritime and environmental regulatory compliance firm providing services to oil majors, independent vessel operators, and clean-up contractors. Early in her career, Ms. Bouchard held the position of Policy Analyst and then Director of Vessel Operations and Maritime Initiatives for the Transportation Institute, a US based maritime trade association. Ms. Bouchard has served as a liaison between industry and government, including serving on various US state and federal negotiating committees to craft more favorable legislation and regulations for the shipping industry. Ms. Bouchard received her B.A. in Biology with Honors from Kenyon College and her M.A. in Marine Affairs with a concentration in Maritime Transportation from the University of Virginia. Ms. Bouchard is a member of WISTA