

## REQUIRED READING

*The authors and editors of this issue have deemed the following titles to be of special interest for their important contributions to academic literature regarding the politics of the seas.*

### **AN OCEAN BLUEPRINT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

(Washington, DC: 2004), 624 pages.

Of the over 200 recommendations that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy makes in *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 25 are related to international ocean science, policy and management. The guiding themes behind these 25 counsels are: beware isolation, beware scientific ignorance and beware policy fragmentation.

In the realm of global participation, the United States is advised to accede to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); to ratify Annex VI on air pollution, of the Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships; and to give expedited consideration to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The commission, directed by the U.S. Congress and appointed by President George W. Bush under the Oceans Act of 2000, also urges the United States to encourage other countries to ratify the Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement (a side agreement to UNCLOS which the

United States has ratified) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and ancillary Compliance Agreement. Finally, the report exhorts the United States to work with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to enhance flag-state oversight and enforcement of shipping standards.

Concern over the perceived disconnect between decisionmaking and scientific expertise prompts the commission to request stronger support for international research conducted by U.S. and foreign scientists on subjects including pollution abatement, global observation, ecosystem protection and fisheries management. The report then asks that agencies such as the Department of State and the National Marine Fisheries Service give a higher priority to scientific analysis in their policy development and implementation.

The current fragmentation of ocean programs and initiatives is one of the primary threads connecting all 200 of the commission's recommendations. In the international sector, this condition is addressed by the proposed creation of an

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interagency committee, within another proposed body, the National Ocean Council (NOC), to support the development and implementation of ocean-related international policy. The NOC is further directed to “assess emerging international ocean-related management challenges and make recommendations for either incorporating these activities under existing management regimes or developing appropriate new ones.”

Adam Cherson

### OCEAN POLITICS AND POLICY: A REFERENCE HANDBOOK

Peter Jacques and Zachary Smith  
(Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO  
*Contemporary World Issues Series*,  
2003), 267 pages.

*Ocean Politics and Policy* introduces the full range of environmental and security policy challenges facing the “World Ocean,” the term that the authors use to convey the necessity of recognizing that all the oceans are connected. *Ocean Politics and Policy* briefly reviews the problem of open-access resources and the continuous development of ocean regimes with increasing restrictions, including the most recent amendment to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1995 Fishery Stock Agreement. *Ocean Politics and Policy* supports greater international cooperation to regulate the oceans for the long-term well-being of humanity, particularly through the formation of explicit links between traditional military security issues and ecological security issues.

Jacques and Smith’s main contribution to the discussion of ocean policy may be their broadening of the definition of security in ocean policy to include resource competition problems and environmental stability. Resource scarcity can encourage competition that can lead to conflicts, ranging from boat-to-boat spats to out-and-out war. The seriousness of conflict over fishery resources is illustrat-

ed by the 1995 Canadian capture of the Spanish trawler *Estai*. The trawler was taken in turbot fishing grounds outside Canada’s 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

In addition to resource scarcity conflicts, Jacques and Smith define problems such as climate change as ecological security issues. Climate change threatens human security in numerous ways, rising sea levels being one of the most serious threats to coastal areas. When faced with a problem such as climate change, policy-makers are forced to make decisions using the complex and imperfect scientific information available. Uncertain information makes it more difficult to obtain international cooperation because states opposed to any new regime can use the uncertainty of the information as an argument against action.

Despite the subtitle, *A Reference Handbook*, Jacques and Smith advocate specific solutions on particular issues. For example, they call for the United States to ratify both UNCLOS and the Kyoto Protocol. The authors also make specific policy recommendations: increase the use of individual fisher quotas, create more marine protection areas and shift the basis of security policy from deterrence to cooperation. In dealing with uncertain information, *Ocean Politics and Policy* makes the case that the potential irreversible consequences of the threats to the “World Ocean” make a precautionary approach to ocean governance essential.

Leo Tidd

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGIMES: CAUSAL CONNECTIONS AND BEHAVIORAL MECHANISMS

Oran R. Young, ed.  
(Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999),  
364 pages.

In the early 1990s, research on international regimes focused on the factors required for their formation. Issues