

## **Testing the Feasibility of Creating and Managing Marine Protected Areas in Non-jurisdictional Oceans: Ways Forward through Analytical Deliberation.**

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Amongst the many motivations for discussion held at several recent international workshops dealing with conservation of biological diversity in non-jurisdictional oceans (NJOs) has been agreement that the need for marine protection in these areas is “an idea whose time has come.” Analytical deliberation - the sine qua non of integrated oceans management - can help advance or push this idea into an implementable and workable concept if we keep a firm, environmentally pragmatic grip on the development of objectives which underpin and justify creation of marine protected areas in those ocean spaces which are located beyond the territorial claims of states.

My research is a fusion of theory, practice and, most importantly, human experience, and the knowledge and lessons we gain from such phenomena. I am arguing that how we apply experience to management of human activity in marine ecosystems needs to be informed by the characteristics and components of the ecosystem itself, and not irrespective of them as has been the convention in modernist ‘resource management’. The research objective, as the title of this seminar suggests, is to test the feasibility of creating, designating and managing marine protected areas in non-jurisdictional ocean areas, and to explore the social and ecological settings in which such a concept applies and how experimental marine protected areas can contribute to the broader global oceans governance vision. Management in the complex social adaptive system needs to parallel that of the marine ecology complex adaptive system – we can think of it as systems complementarity or symbiosis. This requires analysis of complex adaptive systems within an analytically deliberative framework, and some substantial cognitive shifts in the way we, as humans, manage our actions in the marine environment context.

I am also exploring and critiquing social sub-systems – political, legal and institutional – and extant research data and management prescriptions, national and international, which can be applied to deep ocean, non-jurisdictional ocean areas or which may prove more problematic than practicable.

### Outline:

- Research focus and outline- what, who, why, where, and how.
- Theoretical framework for analysis of complex adaptive social systems
- Case study overview of ecosystem-based management premised on ecological considerations – the Eastern Scotian Shelf.
- Preliminary conclusions.