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At present, the use of the sea is very intensive and will be even increased through an acceleration of the growth of the world population and the liberalization of international trade. Therefore, one cannot underestimate the value of a thorough research on the consequences of such intensified use of the seas and its interactions with nature. Apart from the coordination of established uses and the investigation of the consequences of the increased usage of the seas, the question arises to whom the scarce resources shall be allocated. The International Max Planck Research School for Maritime Affairs at the University of Hamburg (established in 2002) emphasized interdisciplinary research - particularly with regard to the following topics: Management of the Coastal Zone, Maritime Trade/Transport, Management of the Marine Environment, Ocean and Climate, Management of the Deep Seabed. Its researchers worked in the fields of law, economics, and natural sciences. Their results have been published in this series. While the School existed only until 2014, this book series is being continued, aiming at the publication of scholarly papers on the legal, economic, and geophysical aspects of the use, protection, and organization of the oceans.

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