

International Issues in Administering Marine Spaces

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SUMMARY

The administration of marine spaces faces many challenges that are at least technical, institutional, organizational, social, economic, and environmental. Technical challenges include overcoming issues related to efficient management of spatial and thematic data (e.g., the acquisition of coastal and marine spatial data, datum definitions, boundary identification, systems to manage the data etc.). Institutional challenges relate to appropriate laws, regulations and other mechanisms that facilitate the identification and management of rights in coastal and marine spaces. Organizations that have mandates related to (or other interests in) the management of rights to coastal and marine spaces face governance challenges of many kinds. Social challenges are related to use of space over time: minimization of use-conflicts with broader socioeconomic aims and objectives, and the inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making to ensure objectives are supported and met. Coastal and marine environments need to be maintained and managed for the provision of quality resources, and the costs associated with all of the foregoing pose real economic challenges for many jurisdictions.

Recently, FIG Commission 4, Working Group 4.3 – a joint working group of Commissions 4 and 7 – issued a publication that is a compendium of international perspectives on various issues affecting the administration of marine spaces. In this presentation, some of these cases will be used to highlight common issues still faced in internationally improving the administration of coastal and marine spaces.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Dr. **Michael Sutherland** holds both a MSc.E. and a Ph.D. in land information management from the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering, University of New Brunswick, Canada. He has more than 18 year's international experience in land information management. He is currently a lecturer and Programme Coordinator of the Land Management B.Sc. degree Programme, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Michael is a member of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, and is a Vice-Chair of the International Federation of Surveyor's Commission 4 (i.e. hydrography, coastal zone management, ocean governance, and marine cadastre).

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