

# The Comparative Institutional Design and Effectiveness of Regional Seas Arrangements

Panel Chairs:

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Abstract:

The oceans and regional seas receive increasing political and academic attention. Climate change, marine litter, overfishing, loss of biodiversity, and other environmental consequences of growing economic use pose challenges for respective governance. States seek to meet these challenges in global processes but expanding cooperation is also to be found on the level of regional seas as for instance in the Arctic or Antarctic Oceans, the OSPAR area (Northeast Atlantic) or the South East Asian seas.

This Panel aims to explore how actors respond to these challenges and what these challenges mean for the design and effectiveness of existing and new regional seas arrangements. Especially, this panel is interested in the varieties and variance in marine environmental governance arrangements' design and effectiveness. While environmental institutional design and effectiveness are well-researched topics, this panel attracts methodologically rigorous and interesting comparative studies, including ocean governance arrangements on various levels and spanning multiple regions.

The concrete aim is to look for and detect similarities and differences in the design of regional seas institutions that may account for their effectiveness in specific regional contexts. We welcome theoretically-driven and empirically-rich papers that discuss different concepts of institutional design and effectiveness, including the application of existing theoretical concepts on regional seas arrangements as well as suggestions for different approaches as how to study the design and effectiveness of regional seas arrangements. In both cases, we look forward to interesting comparative case studies spanning various scales, actors, and regions of regional seas arrangements.

Especially (but not exclusively), the panel seeks papers that analyze

- effectiveness criteria for institutions in relation to different regional seas contexts;
- comparative studies aiming to explain the (in)effectiveness of regional seas institutions across cases and linking these to specific design features;
- variations in policy areas and their relevance for institutional design and effectiveness in different regional seas contexts; and
- the role and relevance of scale for institutional design and effectiveness in different regional seas contexts.

This Panel is part of the Section 60: Regional Seas in Comparative Perspective: Security and Sustainability.

If you have a Paper you think might fit in this Panel, please contact the Panel Chair (Dr Kathrin Stephen) before 31 January with the following information:

- Title of the paper (no more than 20 words)
- Abstract of the paper (no more than 250 words)
- Author's (and if applicable co-author's) email address as registered in their MyECPR account
- 3 – 5 keywords