

Chapter 14

Environmental Integration and Coastal and Marine Law

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14.1 Environmental Integration

In recent decades one of the challenges which has been confronted by environmental and resource management law has been that of integration. This reflects a recognition that legal regimes on their own are not adequate to address a range of environmental and resource issues, and that a more integrated approach is required both in terms of the legal regime itself, and also through an appreciation of the interaction of law, governance and policy in terms of achieving successful outcomes and processes.¹ It has long been recognised that when dealing with the marine environment, an integrated approach is essential in that an activity within one area has the potential to have consequential impacts for another area of the marine environment. The regulation of shipping activities and the relationship with marine environmental protection is a clear illustration of that point. In 1980, Underdal referred to integrated policy as a “policy where the constituent elements are brought together and made subject to a single, unifying conception”. This was seen to engage three consecutive stages to the policy-making process: comprehensiveness to the input stage, aggregation to the processing of inputs, and consistency to outputs.²

From these early beginnings, the importance of environmental integration was further highlighted in the 1992 *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (Rio Declaration)³ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held at Rio de Janeiro. The Rio Declaration gave significant recognition to sustainable development, and in Principle 4 noted:

- 1 See generally Marcus Haward and Joanna Vince, *Oceans Governance in the Twenty-First Century: Managing the Blue Planet* (Edward Elgar, 2006).
- 2 Arild Underdal, “Integrated marine policy: What? Where? How?” (1980) 4 *Marine Policy* 159, 159.
- 3 (1992) 31 ILM 874 (Rio Declaration).

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