

ABSTRACT

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A Critical Study on Law relating to Protection and Conservation of Marine Resources in the Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone and Exclusive Economic Zone: A Review on Sri Lankan Context

The world's Territorial sea, Contiguous Zone (CZ), and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are vital to mankind in diverse ways. At present there are highly focus on illegal fishing, chemical and oil industries in the sea and that they are directly affected to living and living marine resources in the Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ. The aim of this research is analysis of law relating to marine resources in the Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ, examine effectiveness of existing laws on conservation of marine resources and to make recommendations for protection of marine resources in Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ in respect of Sri Lankan context. The scope of this research is limited to study the marine resources directly related to the Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ in Sri Lanka.

The codification of customary laws, clarification of certain issues and incorporation of developments in Law of the Sea was undertaken by several countries. It has resulted in review on conventions and other sources of law of the sea related to Territorial sea, CZ, EEZ. The International Conventions, legislation, opinions of Jurists and case law were analyzed as sources of law for Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ. There are few legislations enacted by Sri Lanka for the protection of marine resources. However, those laws were inadequate and there were many lacuna of present marine laws. Due to lack of laws and experienced professionals in marine resources of Sri Lanka, usage of marine resources in Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ were not systematic. This research and its analysis are undertaken to explore laws on marine resources in Territorial sea, CZ and EEZ. The research reveals that strict protection laws on marine resources should be enacted by Sri Lankan Government to conservation of marine resources for future generation of Sri Lanka and economic development. Hence all countries must take steps to protect of marine resources in the territorial sea as well as in far off oceans. There are many suggestions for the development and utilization of living resources in the territorial sea such as assessment of marine resources. This research was identified periodic comprehensive marine surveys also are essential.

Keywords - Marine resources, Territorial sea, Contiguous Zone (CZ), Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), conservation, protection