

# Introductory Course to the International Legal Framework on Marine Biodiversity

## *Course Syllabus*



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

## Learning objectives

Marine and coastal areas support a diverse spectrum of marine life and for many people throughout the world, the marine environment is not only a vital source of protein, but the activities which it sustains, such as fisheries, transport and tourism, also provides them with an income. All of these activities have an impact on the marine environment and possibly on biodiversity. All of these activities have an impact on the marine environment and possibly on biodiversity.

This course introduces you to the international legal framework on marine biodiversity, which covers global and regional legally binding and non-legally binding agreements.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recall the impact of human activities on marine biodiversity
2. Identify global and regional agreements and initiatives addressing the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity

## Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 10 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external websites

It will take you 3 hours approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

## Assessment and certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress.

You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 1 – Introduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why protecting the marine environment?</li> <li>2. Impact of human activities</li> <li>3. Definition of marine biodiversity</li> <li>4. The international legal framework</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List some uses of the marine environment and their impact</li> <li>2. Define marine biodiversity</li> </ol>
Unit 2 - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Maritime Zones</li> <li>3. Protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and utilization of marine living resources</li> <li>4. International cooperation regarding the management of marine living resources</li> <li>5. Pollution of the marine environment</li> <li>6. Institutional Arrangements</li> <li>7. Conservation and management of living resources in the High Seas</li> <li>8. Resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain why UNCLOS is often refer to as the Constitution for the the Oceans</li> <li>2. Name the maritime zones established by UNCLOS</li> <li>3. Recall key provisions of UNCLOS and resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly addressing the protection and conservation of the marine environment</li> <li>4. Describe on-going process towards a new agreement under UNCLOS for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction</li> </ol>
Unit 3 - The United Nations Fish Stock Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Objective and scope</li> <li>3. Broader obligations</li> <li>4. Precautionary approach</li> <li>5. Compatibility of measures and international cooperation</li> <li>6. Duties of the flag State</li> <li>7. Measures taken by a port State</li> <li>8. Institutional arrangements</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe key provisions of the Fish Stock Agreement</li> </ol>
Unit 4 - Convention on Biological Diversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Applicability</li> <li>3. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011 - 2020)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe key provisions and processes addressing the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Programme of Work</li> <li>5. Ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs)</li> </ul>	
Unit 5 - Marine Pollution and Ballast Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection and preservation of marine biodiversity in global conventions on Marine Pollution</li> <li>2. International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recall two international agreements under the International Maritime Organization that contribute towards the conservation of marine biodiversity</li> </ul>
Unit 6 - International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction Adoption</li> <li>2. Objective and scope</li> <li>3. Institutional arrangements</li> <li>4. Decision-making procedure</li> <li>5. Conservation of whales and the moratorium on commercial whaling</li> <li>6. Developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling</li> <li>2. Explain the recent developments regarding the moratorium on commercial whaling and the International Whaling Commission</li> </ul>
Unit 7 - Instruments adopted under the auspices of FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</li> <li>3. 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas</li> <li>4. FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing</li> <li>5. Conservation and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List several FAO instruments addressing fisheries</li> <li>2. Describe the scope, objective and key provisions of such instruments</li> </ul>
Unit 8 - Regional Fisheries Instruments and Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas</li> <li>3. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define what regional fisheries bodies and agreements are</li> <li>2. Describe the scope, objective and key provisions of two regional fisheries agreements</li> </ul>
Unit 9 - Regional Sea Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recall several regional agreements addressing the protection and preservation of marine biodiversity</li> </ul>

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3. Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Protocol) to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)
  4. The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution
  5. Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol) to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)
  6. Protocol concerning the conservation of biological diversity and the establishment of network of protected areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
  7. Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention)
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Unit 10 - Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms

1. Introduction
  2. Global Environment Facility - International waters
  3. Governance approaches
  4. Key Features of regional oceans governance mechanisms
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1. Define large marine ecosystems
2. Explain how the large marine ecosystems Mechanisms are set up



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