

## Chapter 5: Law of the Sea

### Glossary

---

**Baseline:** boundary between a state's territory and international waters

**Common heritage of mankind:** the principle that certain natural resources belong to mankind as a whole and should be protected from exploitation

**Common seabed:** seabed in which no individual state has jurisdiction

**Contiguous zone:** sea zone outside of a territorial sea over which the state has limited law enforcement rights; extends up to 12 n.m.

**Continental shelf:** seabed in which a coastal state has exclusive rights over natural resources; extends 200 n.m. or more, depending on topography

**Delimitation:** the allocation of legal rights when multiple states claim jurisdiction over the same area

**Diplomatic protection:** assertion of legal claims by a state on behalf of private individuals (including ships)

**Equidistance method:** a geographic technique for drawing a line—called the equidistance or median line—that is equally distant from each state

**Flag state:** the state in which a ship is registered

**Exclusive economic zone:** sea zone in which coastal states can regulate economic activities and natural resource conservation; extends up to 200 n.m.

**High seas:** water in which no state has jurisdiction

**Hot pursuit:** a legal doctrine that allows a state to preserve its law enforcement authority if it follows certain procedures while pursuing crime suspects at sea

**Inter-generational equity:** the claim that current generations of humans should leave ample resources for future generations

**Internal waters:** water bodies that lie within a state's baseline

***Mare clausum:*** "closed seas"; the principle that a state can claim exclusive jurisdiction over the sea

***Mare liberum:*** "open seas"; the principle that no state can claim jurisdiction over the sea

**Right to innocent passage:** right of foreign ships to travel through a territorial sea, subject to specified constraints

**Sovereign immunity:** legal rules that protect a state and its activities from the jurisdiction of domestic courts in foreign states

**Territorial sea:** sea zone that lies outside of a state's baseline, but over which the state has exclusive jurisdiction; extends up to 12 n.m.

**Universal jurisdiction:** use of a state's domestic law and institutions to regulate behavior that occurs outside of its domestic territory, does not involve its nationals, and does not have systematic or important effects on itself