

ABSTRACT

**MARINE POLLUTION: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW**

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The oceans have always been considered as common heritage to the mankind. The states had right and jurisdiction over the adjacent belt surrounding its coastline whereas the rest of the ocean was accessible to all and no one had exclusive right over it. The oceans withhold the greatest natural resources in abundance and are being extensively explored and exploited today to cater the ever growing demand of energy, food, nutrition, medicine etc. of the ever increasing population.

The extensive and indiscriminate exploitation of the oceans, along with the notion that ocean was dumping yard for all the waste material brought the marine environment to the brink of collapse. The instances of severe oil spills, dumping of toxic waste such as chemical pollutants, radioactive waste, plastic waste etc. drew the attention of the developed states such as the United States and Great Britain to take affirmative action in order to curb the threat that marine pollution posed.

The research paper introduces the issue at hand by discussing the causes of the marine pollution and goes on further to analyse the definitions of marine pollution as laid down under several conventions pertaining to the protection of the marine environment. In the third section, the research paper discusses significant conventions by tracing the origin of the initiatives taken by the United States in 1926 to most recent regulatory framework under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas, 1982 and analyses the role that international law has played over the years in protection of the marine environment and prevention of further deterioration of the state of ocean through the law of convention and treaties.

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