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Marine scientific research is changing and growing as the capabilities of the researchers have increased and the reasons to study the oceans have intensified. Changing at least as dramatically has been the attitude of coastal nations toward foreign marine scientific research in waters over which they exercise some jurisdiction. Once an activity of scholars and explorers which was of little concern to coastal nations, such ocean studies are now often suspect. Many nations, especially developing ones recently emerged from a colonial period, have come to regard ocean research, particularly in regard to oil and other natural resources, as the cutting edge of new exploitation. Other nations suspect the "noble goal" of scientific research as being a cover for military activities. One of the many tasks of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) was to draft a legal regime that would reconcile the interests of the international community in continued freedom in marine research with the growing concerns of the coastal states which felt themselves to be potentially prejudiced by such research. Soon's study provides by far the best existing commentary on this aspect of the work of UNCLOS III.

The book is divided into three sections: an introduction to marine scientific research and the political context surrounding it, the legal regime present at the start of UNCLOS III and the legal regime produced by UNCLOS III. In terms of space devoted to particular subjects, however, this study primarily addresses the UNCLOS III legal regime. The book through its Annexes is also an excellent research tool. Annexes II-V contain the texts of the proposed drafts for the marine scientific research provisions throughout UNCLOS III. The Annexes thus enable readers to easily review the original sources and compare their interpretations with the views of the author. The study also provides an extensive bibliography to the legal aspects of marine scientific study.

The author's style and his development of themes are very good. Soons writes tersely, holding the interest of the reader, and simultaneously provides rich documentation through his footnotes. The publishing of the text is done by offset printing with the valuable notes (unfortunately) collected at the end of the text. Part One, "The Context of the International Legal Regime of Marine Scientific Research" performs an able task of introducing the reader to the past and present of marine scientific research. The author explains why marine research is important

2. Consider for example the Pueblo incident, and the work of the Glomar Explorer.
3. 34 pages are allocated to his introduction to marine scientific research, 56 pages to the pre-UNCLOS III regime review and 162 pages to the regime produced by UNCLOS III.
to the international community and what basically is necessary for such research to occur. In balancing such community interests, he discusses the legitimate economic, military and other interests of coastal states in regulating marine research. In his estimation the international and national interests considered not only “explain the content of and the rationale behind the [UNCLOS III] legal regime”, but are also the proper criteria for “evaluating” any regime.

Part Two, “The Conventional and Customary Legal Regime of Marine Scientific Research at the Start of the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea” is an adaptation of an article previously published by Soons and which was included so as to allow the reader “to be able to view the developments in UNCLOS III in historical perspective”. If historical perspective was the objective, then an evolutionary description of the legal regimes prior to UNCLOS III would have been more illuminating than an indepth study of the regime existing “at the start” of UNCLOS III. Although much of the evolutionary information is contained in Part II of the work, this reviewer found that the section appeared still to be an “article” obstinately refusing to mesh with the theme and thus breaking the flow of the book.

Part III, “The Regime of Marine Scientific Research under the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea” is the heart and prime accomplishment of Dr. Soons’s study. What may have been lacking in organization and flow in Part II is more than compensated for in this Part. The division of headings in this section is keenly perceptive. As another reviewer has noted “[T]he Law of the Sea Convention provisions are marshalled into separate sections in an order which is rather easier to cope with than that adopted in the Convention itself.” Dr. Soons basically divides his study of regulation of marine scientific research by reference to the various maritime jurisdictional zones and then by sections addressing the more general issues of cooperation, liability and settlement of disputes. In each case, the author quickly surveys the preparatory work within UNCLOS III and then sets forth the applicable provisions of the Convention with commentary.

The book overall is a fine example of traditional legal scholarship. The work is, however, primarily a legal one. Although the political forces that led to the compromises within the UNCLOS III are amply treated, the study is not an exploration of the formal and informal methods by which nations, private institutions and individuals may seek to promote needed scientific research. Rather, it is an in-depth study of one legal device (albeit the most prominent) used to attain such goals; Part XIII of the Law of the Sea Convention. One critical observation is that the research methods utilized by the study are somewhat traditional in that a primary research mechanism, interviewing, was not used as a means of documentation. Although the author’s preface makes clear that he dealt with many of the key figures in this aspect of the Conference, the addition of the personal views and memories of participants and observers would have aided the bringing to life of these treaty provisions. A minor additional criticism is that the book is primarily a work of scholarship and, although it need not necessarily be implied, is more directed at ascertaining truth than communicating to the reader. In particular, the text does not fully employ tables and figures to condense and summarize developments and conclusions.

In short, *Marine Scientific Research and the Law of the Sea* is a valuable book for the lawyer, the scientist, the legislator and the scholar. Dr. Soon’s study provides a thorough basis for understanding the legal regime established by the Law of

the Sea Convention. Many policy questions remain to be explored in the area of marine scientific research: for example, the place of the private researcher in a regime emphasizing State relations, the feasibility of increased cooperation through supplementary treaties and the day to day workability of the UNCLOS III regime. The significance of Dr. Soons's work is apparent in that their is a great likelihood that his book will be widely used as the starting point for such further research.6

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2. Idem, 1983 (vol. 2), 833 pp., 4.40 Yuan (de luxe) or 3.40 Yuan (paper).  

Legal journals, particularly Journals and Yearbooks of International Law, have a tendency to acquire a prejudice that is commonly found in national airlines: nations do not fully “count” unless they have their own “national” Journal or Yearbook of International Law (though there are usually other, less obvious and better founded reasons for the existence of these journals.) Fortunately there are differences between airlines and legal journals in the extent of the financial consequences involved, and the fact that periodicals cannot stray into foreign controlled airspace (and be shot down). On the other hand, both serve as devices for the communication between nations. Traditionally, China is considered to be an important country among its 150-odd peers, and is even thought of as one of the “Big Five” according to the 1945 UN Charter. Certainly, the Chinese practice of international law and their idea of how the law ought to be are decidedly of the greatest importance for the development of this branch of law. It is therefore with great satisfaction that the appearance of the two Chinese Yearbooks is announced in this Review.

Three roles, played by “national” Journals or Yearbooks of International Law such as the ones under review, may be distinguished, though they often partially coincide. First, they serve as a forum for scholarly discussion of legal matters irrespective of national boundaries. Secondly, they constitute a vehicle for presenting