

# Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs

Co-Chairs: Nilufer Oral, David VanderZwaag

## Year in Review

The Specialist Group on Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs lead by Co-Chairs Nilufer Oral and David VanderZwaag had a productive year in 2015. The SG was involved in a range of work and highlights worth mentioning:

- The Specialist Group helped organize a panel of experts on Law of the Sea and Governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction at the Law of the Sea Institute's 50th Anniversary Conference, Berkeley Law, October 9-10, 2015. Co-chairs Nilufer Oral and David VanderZwaag, along with Specialist Group Members Robin Warner and Kristina Gjerde, presented papers relating to global and regional challenges in addressing governance of marine biodiversity on the high seas. Papers will be published in an upcoming book volume co-edited by Nilufer and Harry Scheiber.
- The Co-chairs collaborated with the WCEL chair in developing a panel program on Biodiversity and Marine Ecosystems for the World Environmental Law Congress in April 2016.
- The Specialist Group submitted a successful workshop proposal in collaboration with various IUCN units, "Governance of Marine Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction: Progressions and Challenges" for the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, September 2016..
- Specialist Group member, Professor Rosemary Rayfuse, published an edited volume, *Research Handbook on International Marine Environmental Law* (Cheltenham, U.K., Edward Elgar, 2015), which included chapters written by the co-chairs and other SG members including Nengye Liu, Julian Rochette, Tim Stephens, Hui Dang Vu and Robin Warner.
- Specialist Group participated in the high seas (BBNJ) workshop held at the ELC in Bonn. The workshop produced a matrix to be used by governments negotiating the new implementing agreement to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Specialist Group participated in the BBNJ workshop (IUCN and co-organized by the co Governments of Mexico and New Zealand) held in Tarrytown, New York (6-8 November 2015) for the preparations of the new implementing agreement to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Aside from events and projects in which the Oceans SG was involved, Co-Chairs and members also published a number of publications.