

## **The regional-scale transformation of Oceania's legal architecture to protect and preserve the marine environment**

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The United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) expressly provides for and mandates cooperation at the regional level to protect and preserve the marine environment. In Oceania, external threats to their common ocean space, or oceanscape, have driven a collective system of ocean stewardship that preceded the LOSC. The regional scale transcends ocean areas within national jurisdiction and extends collective oceans governance to areas beyond national jurisdiction. This paper elaborates the stages of transformation from 1947 to 2017 to integrate Oceania's regional legal architecture to collectively protect their oceanscape.