

Abstract of
Special Protective Regimes in the Mediterranean Sea

by

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As part of the IUCN Legal Workshop session on “Transboundary Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: Legal Issues,” my presentation will deal with the wider category of special protective marine environmental areas in the Mediterranean Sea, both within and outside waters subject to national jurisdiction. For that matter, the presentation will provide an overview of the array of such areas to be found in the Mediterranean Sea. Geographically circumscribed, these areas are usually established in relation to one or more of the following purposes: protection of biodiversity; protection and management of fisheries; control of ship-source pollution and/or maritime traffic control. The presentation will look at international, regional as well as national schemes, both present and those expected to come into existence in the near future. Such will be the first part of the presentation.

The second part of the presentation will be more analytical inasmuch as it will attempt to canvass the overall coherence of the spectrum of special protective

marine environmental areas listed above. Geographical and administrative interrelationships between the various schemes will be explored and identified. The analysis will point to overlaps, competing norms and gaps. Extraneous problems of implementation will also be looked at. The second part will thus end by sketching proposals for simplification/streamlining.