

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The central focus is a large cluster of yellow, tube-shaped sponges with many circular openings. The background shows various other coral species and the blue water of the reef.

# SEALIFE LAW CENTRE & INTERNATIONAL LAW

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# AGENDA

- About Sealife Law Centre
- International Law & Caribbean Sea Turtles
  - Why we need international law
  - Relationship between global, regional & national laws
  - Discussion of regional documents
- Implementation Questions

# SEALIFE LAW CENTRE

New initiative to provide legal information and education to conservation groups in the Caribbean

- Answer questions
- Research legislative & policy options
- Develop educational materials

Goal: Help you be more effective stewards of the oceans and the amazing life within them

# WHY INTERNATIONAL LAW?

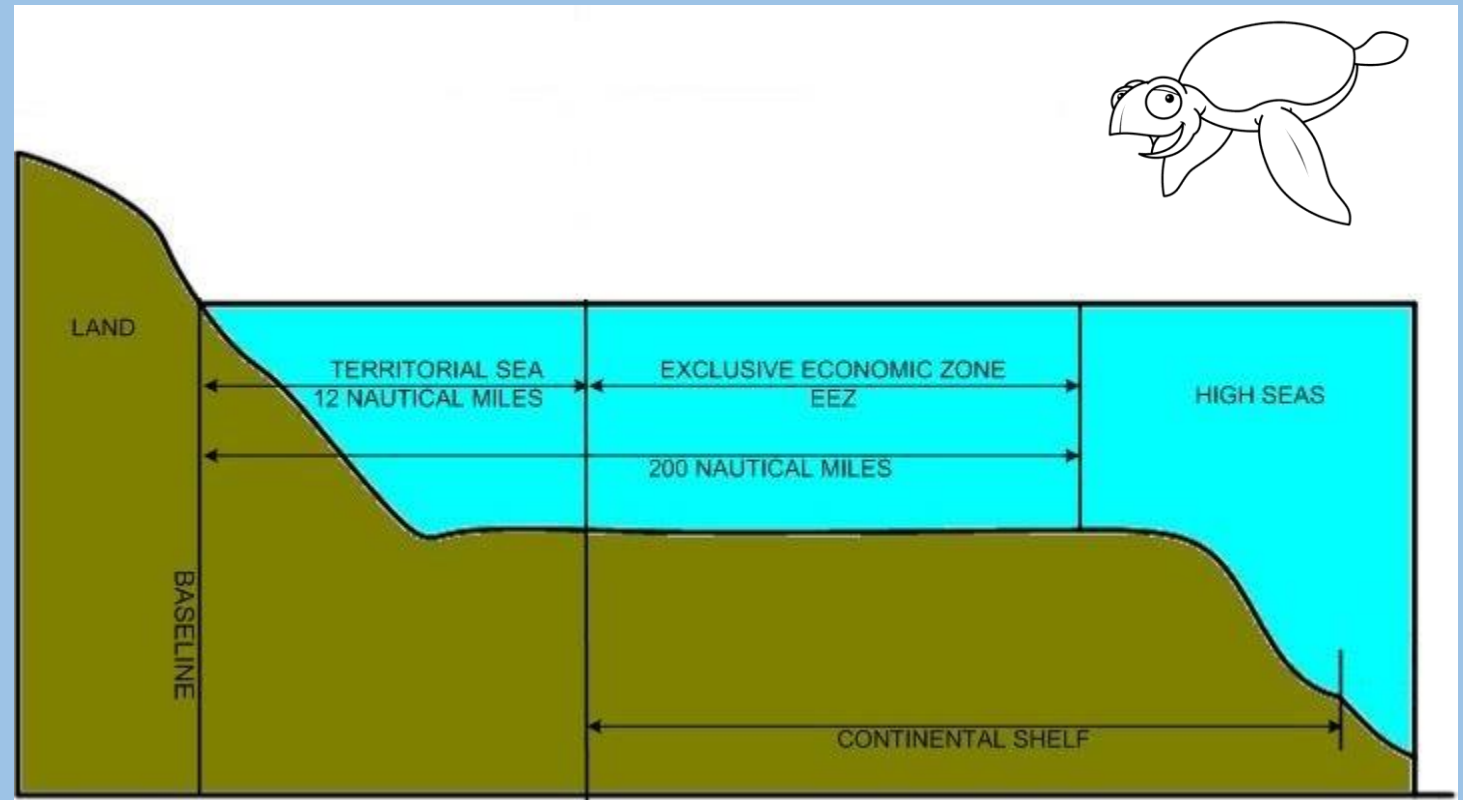
- Assigns jurisdiction to solve your problem
- Provides opportunity to coordinate action
- Acts as a standard for domestic implementation

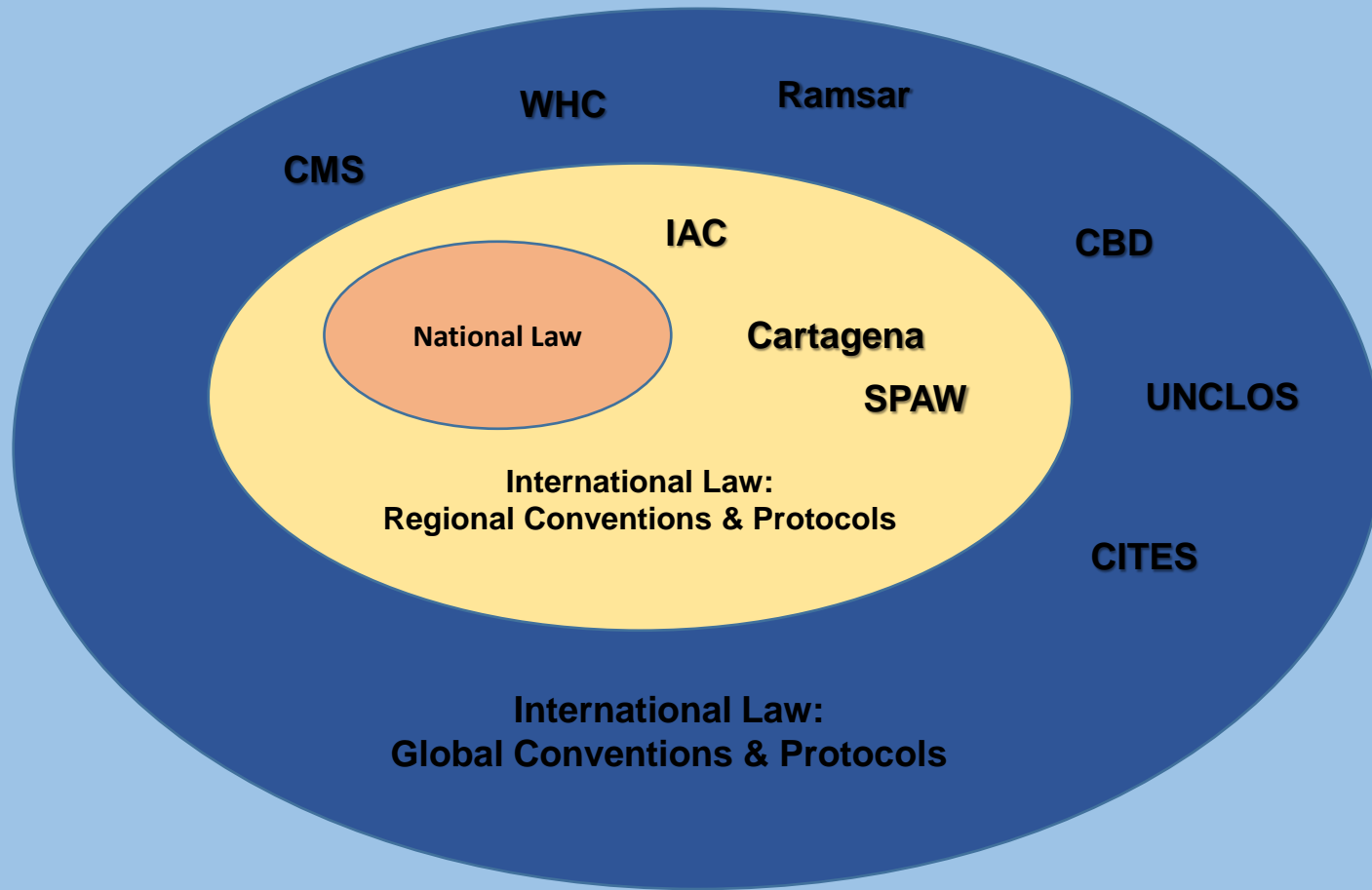
# THE LAW OF THE SEA

**High Seas** – “freedom of the seas” – some sectoral regulation ex. shipping & fishing rules

**EEZ** – coastal states have rights to living resources – can regulate fisheries - but restricted in regulating other marine activities

**Territorial** – coastal states have the most rights to impose & enforce regulations





**Cartagena** – Convention on the Protection & Development of the Marine Environment of the Caribbean

**CBD** – Convention on Biological Diversity

**CITES** – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

**CMS** – Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species

**IAC** – Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention

**Ramsar** – Convention on Wetlands

**SPAW** – Protocol to the Cartagena on Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife in the Caribbean

**UNCLOS** – Law of the Sea

**WHC** – World Heritage Convention

# WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP?

International



National

Negotiate & Sign

Ratify (or Ascend)

Implement

Can't directly  
enforce  
international  
law in national  
courts

# CARIBBEAN SEA TURTLES

## SPAW

Bahamas
Belize
Colombia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
France Grenada
Guyana
Netherlands
Panama
Saint Lucia
St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Trinidad & Tobago
United States
Venezuela

**Signed:**  
Antigua & Barbuda  
Guatemala  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
UK

## IAC

Argentina
Belize
Brazil
Chile
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Netherlands
Panama
Peru
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela

**Signed:**  
Nicaragua



	IAC	SPAW
<b>Direct Take &amp; Trade</b>	Prohibited	Prohibited
<b>Incidental Take</b>	Reduction, to the greatest extent practicable, of incidental catch or harm in fisheries	To the extent possible, prohibit incidental taking, possession or killing
<b>Disturbance</b>	To the extent practicable, restrict human activities that could seriously affect sea turtles, especially during the periods of reproduction, nesting and migration	To the extent possible, prohibit the disturbance of listed species during periods of biological stress
<b>Exemptions</b>	For economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, plus may apply to other activities	For traditional subsistence and cultural needs of local populations, plus for scientific, education or management
<b>Habitat</b>	Protect, conserve, restore habitat – regulate human activities when necessary	Conserve, maintain and restore habitats and ecosystems critical to the survival and recovery
<b>Science/Monitoring</b>	Promote	Encourage
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	For marine and coastal development activities that may affect sea turtle habitats	If a project would have a negative environmental impact and significantly affect sea turtles

# IMPLEMENTATION THOUGHTS

- Responsible tourism policies
- Fisheries bycatch regulation
- Environmental Impact Assessments

Thank You!



**SEALIFE LAW CENTRE**

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