

The adoption of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a tool for coastal and ocean governance in Malaysia and for the regional seas with special reference to the South China Sea

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Current sectoral practices in ocean governance are insufficient to meet the needs of the next decade where many ocean uses have to be separated into those that can be managed by marine spatial planning such as conservation of seas and resources and those which require other tools besides oceans zoning such as the safety and security of navigation. UNEP has assessed the stresses and strains on oceans and coasts. Progress for coastal development are the prime drivers for the stresses and strains along the coast coming from population growth, demand for housing, construction of industrial sites, ports, airports, marinas, causeways, artificial islands and other infrastructural development, enhancement of tourism, provision of sewerage facilities, recreational fishing and water-sports, international and national uses such as transportation of oil, HNS and nuclear cargoes, shipping and navigation laying of submarine cables and pipelines, exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in deep waters and sand and gravel mining. The degradation of the marine environment also stems from the effects

SCS 2012, University of Malaya

of climate change on the oceans and consequent deleterious effects on the waters and habitats besides unsustainable harvest of fisheries, IUU fishing, challenges of marine scientific research, transboundary sources of HNS marine pollution, destruction of coral reefs and other marine habitats and sedentary fisheries and rise in jelly fish. Coastal erosion, sedimentation, accretion and dredging are also continuous challenges for a coastal State.