ABSTRACT

Marine Pollution and International Preventative Laws: A Case Study of the Caribbean Sea

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Today, one of the most dangerous phenomena facing mankind is that of global marine pollution. It is an established fact that marine pollution is causing considerable damage to certain parts of the world. The major question that must be addressed then is why does marine pollution continue to exist despite the fact that it is so very dangerous?

A combination of factors such as scientific, technological, political, social, economic and legal, can be considered when answering the question posed above. However, this thesis specifically looks at the legal factors that can be considered when addressing the persistence of marine pollution in the international environment.

The purpose of this thesis is twofold. Firstly, it enquires into and identifies the main sources of marine pollution that exist. This is followed by and examination of the way in which international law has treated marine pollution.

Secondly, the study moves from the international scene to the Caribbean Sea. An attempt is made to
discover what are the main sources of marine pollution that affect the Caribbean Sea. In order to achieve this, some information on the special hydrological and ecological characteristics of the semi-enclosed Caribbean Sea is given.

In understanding what sources of pollution affect the Caribbean Sea then, one is better able to plan and implement the necessary regime for the prevention, reduction and control of Caribbean marine pollution. Therefore, an examination of what has been done in the region to prevent, control and eliminate marine pollution is undertaken. Various conventions put in place in the region are also examined to assess their effectiveness. In the course of this examination, where the present machinery is weak, recommendations are made in order to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution.