

ABSTRACT

Land-Based Marine Pollution: A Threat to the Sustainable Development of the Wider Caribbean Region

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All coastal areas are under increasing pressure from land-based marine pollution. This thesis contends that protection of the marine environment from land-based pollution is an important criterion of any sustainable development strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region. Coastal zones play a critical role in the socioeconomic development of many countries of the region; hence the significance of this study.

Land-based marine pollution is in the hands of coastal states and they have the capacity to control it through national action if they have the desire to do so. The key reasons for reluctance to adopt more stringent measures in this regard, seem to be:

- lack of financial and technical resources for agencies responsible for pollution monitoring and law-enforcement
- considerations of the potential impact on economic development
- lack of consensus among the different stakeholders in the region

With the emergence of the sustainable development paradigm, it is hoped that conflicting objectives of economic growth and environmental protection will eventually be reconciled. This will form the basis of the thesis, which examines the issue from an interdisciplinary approach, in other words, within the economic, ecological, legal and

organizational analytical framework. The thesis concludes that land-based marine pollution is a threat to the sustainable development of the region.

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