

ABSTRACT

Marine Pollution and International Law. The Quest for a Pollution Free Marine Environment “The Special Case of The Caribbean Sea.”

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The issue of marine pollution is symptomatic of the problem of marine debris and toxic substances entering our oceans. These substances come from land-based sources, oil spills, the transport of hazardous waste and nautical tourism. In more general terms, oceans are used as dumping sites for various materials and substances that should not be there. These activities can prove to be very dangerous to our ecosystems, yet the problem keeps recurring in spite of a number of regional and global conventions attempting to deal with this issue.

The problem can be placed within a legal, political and social framework. The title of this thesis is, “Marine Pollution and International Law, The Quest for a Pollution-Free Marine Environment: The Special Case of the Caribbean Sea”. In this thesis special emphasis is placed on what International Law has done to curb the problem of marine pollution. The thesis identifies some of the main treaties used to regulate marine pollution within the international community. It also identifies the main sources of pollution that affect the Caribbean Sea. An examination is made of the various initiatives that have been put into effect to deal with the problem.

Because the degree of success has been minimal, recommendations are made to deal with the issue of regime building, and, more specifically, to deal with the problem of marine pollution in the Caribbean Sea.

KEY WORDS: Wayne Guevara: Pollution: Environment: Caribbean Sea