KEY CONCEPT 005 · VERSION 1.0

Ocean Governance

How ocean decisions take shape

05

OCTOBER 2026

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THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Who decides about the ocean, on what legal basis, and who must answer for the effects?

Shared interests do not remove disagreement.

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CONCEPT EXPLAINED

How ocean decisions take shape

Ocean governance concerns how rules, institutions and actors shape decisions across interconnected scales. It connects questions of authority and participation with implementation, accountability and adaptation.

> Within LAMLS, the focus is how maritime priorities become, or fail to become, verifiable commitments.

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CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECTURE

Ocean decisions within the LAMLS framework

Maritime Centrality

Alignment and sustained maritime priorities

Oceanic Imaginary

Meanings, memories and contested expectations

Ocean Governance

Decisions, implementation, accountability and review

Maritime State

Geography, interests, institutions and capabilities

Maritime Nation

Political belonging, shared interests and a common future

Interconnected local, national, regional and global scales. Decisions and their effects can reshape priorities, institutions and collective experience.

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COORDINATED ACTION

Distinct roles and identifiable responsibilities

01	**Public Institutions**	Lawful powers, public decisions and international cooperation.
02	**Private Sector**	Investment, operations, innovation and compliance.
03	**Civil Society**	Participation, local knowledge and public scrutiny.

Include affected communities and scientific institutions.
Make authority and responsibilities explicit.

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STRATEGIC PURPOSES

Strategic purposes within the LAMLS framework

These purposes may conflict. Decisions require reasons, evidence and respect for rights and legal obligations.

01 Prosperity and competitiveness

02 Sovereignty and geopolitical projection
within the applicable legal regimes

03 Sustainability and ocean stewardship

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FORMAL DEFINITION
LAMLS DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK

Ocean Governance

DEFINITION

Ocean governance comprises the rules, institutions and processes through which decisions concerning the ocean, its spaces, resources, uses and impacts are formed, coordinated and implemented.

RELATIONSHIPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

It encompasses relationships of authority, participation and responsibility among public, private and societal actors across interconnected scales, together with arrangements for accountability, review and adaptation.

LEGAL SCOPE

The concept does not itself confer authority, jurisdiction or sovereign rights.

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CLOSING QUOTE

Ocean governance should connect maritime priorities, authority and capabilities through decisions subject to accountability and review.

— LAMLS Key Concepts Series

Doctrinal basis: Roberto Arriola García, Teoría del Estado Marítimo (2026), annex, KC005. Closing quote: LAMLS editorial formulation.

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