



High Seas Resources, Ocean Security, and the Great Powers

March 24, 2021, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (EDT)

Via virtual conference

Join CNA for a timely discussion about the legally binding instrument on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) currently under negotiation at the UN and its security implications. In recent years, heavy high seas fishing and the race for deep-sea living resources have emerged as geopolitical concerns. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea provides no robust governance for these resources, raising the specter of contested or depleted commons. As a new US administration eager to tackle challenges with more multilateralism settles into office, how will this new dimension to UNCLOS intersect with well-publicized concerns about high seas fishing and genetic experiments? And how might the BBNJ treaty offer new tools for responsible oceans management and encourage more cooperative engagement among the great powers?

Featuring:

Dr. Catherine Blanchard, Lecturer, University of Utrecht

Dr. James Kraska, Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, U.S. Naval War College

Dr. Nilüfer Oral, Director of the Centre of International Law, National University of Singapore

Moderated by:

Mr. Cornell Overfield, Analyst, Strategy and Policy Analysis Program, CNA

Discussion will be open to the public and on the record.

Please RSVP to overfieldc@cna.org using your institutional email address. We will provide conferencing information shortly before the event.

This event is organized by CNA's Strategy and Policy Analysis Program:

<http://www.cna.org/strategy>

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Catherine Blanchard

Lecturer in Public International Law, University of Utrecht



Catherine Blanchard is a Lecturer in Public International Law at Utrecht University School of Law (The Netherlands). She holds a J.D. from Dalhousie University, and an LL.M. in Public International Law from Utrecht University. She completed her PhD thesis on the sustainable management of high seas fisheries also at Utrecht University. Catherine worked as a law clerk at the Federal Court of Canada, and completed an internship within the legal office of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. She is also a member of the Law Society of Ontario, Canada (barrister and solicitor). Catherine has authored and co-authored various publications addressing questions related to the law of the sea, environmental and biodiversity law, the concept of oceans governance, and legal perspectives of socio-ecological resilience. She also attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee and Intergovernmental Conference negotiating the text of the upcoming BBNJ Agreement.

Dr. James Kraska

Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, U.S. Naval War College



James Kraska is Chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College. He is also a Visiting Professor of Law and John Harvey Gregory Lecturer on World Organization at Harvard Law School, where he teaches International Law of the Sea. Prof. Kraska serves as a Distinguished Fellow at the Law of the Sea Institute, University of California Berkeley School of Law, a Permanent Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and on the International Group of Experts for the San Remo Manual on the Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea, produced by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law. Professor Kraska served as a U.S. Navy officer and lawyer, including with operational forces in the Indo-Pacific region, and as Oceans Law & Policy Adviser and then Director of International Negotiations Division, The Joint Staff. Professor Kraska has written numerous scholarly articles and books, including *Maritime Power and the Law of the Sea*, and *The Free Sea: The American Fights for Freedom of Navigation*.

Dr. Nilüfer Oral

Director, Centre of International Law, National University of Singapore



Nilüfer Oral is Director of the Centre of International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore and is a member of the law faculty at Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey. She is member of the UN International Law Commission and Co-chair of the Study Group on Sea-level rise in relation to international law. She served as climate change negotiator for the Turkish Ministry (2009 – 2016). She has also appeared before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Nilufer Oral is a Distinguished Fellow of the Law of the Sea Institute at Berkeley Law (University of California Law Berkeley); Senior Fellow of the National University of Singapore Law School; and Honorary Research Fellow at University of Dundee. She is a member of the IUCN-WCEL Steering Committee. She was elected to the IUCN Council 2012-2016 and served as the Co-chair of the WCEL Specialist Group on Oceans, Coasts and Coral

Reefs. Dr. Oral is the series editor for the International Straits of the World publications (Brill); member of the Board of Editors of the European Society of International Law Series; Board of Editors of the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law; Associate Editor of the Research Perspectives in the Law of the Sea (Brill); Board of Advisors for the International Law Studies Journal and International Advisory Board, and Chinese Journal of Environmental Law (Brill). She has published numerous articles, edited several books, and spoken at many international conferences.

Mr. Cornell Overfield

Analyst, Strategy and Policy Analysis Program, CNA



Cornell Overfield is an associate research analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses. He focuses on US strategy and narratives, how international law intersects with US foreign policy, and European political economy. He has written about law of the sea in the Arctic for *Lawfare* and the Bay of Bengal grey areas for *CIMSEC*. His work has also appeared in the *Penn History Review*, and the NYU All the Russias' blog. He holds an M.A. in European and Russian Studies from Yale University and a B.A. in History and International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

Watch previous events in this series by CNA's Strategy and Policy Analysis program:

February 2021 – [Small States in an Era of Great Power Competition](#)

Nilanthi Samaranyake, Ralph Espach, Anders Wivel (University of Copenhagen), and Jane Chan (RSIS) discussed small states as allies and strategic partners to the United States.

January 2021 – [The Future of Arms Control and On-Site Inspection](#)

Timothy P. McDonnell, Corey Hinderstein (Nuclear Threat Initiative), and Pranay Vaddi (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace) discussed challenges and opportunities for on-site inspection and its potential contributions to the future of strategic arms control.

December 2020 – [Women, Peace, and Security: Cross-regional Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Nilanthi Samaranyake, Julia McQuaid, Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum (US Indo-Pacific Command), and former Commander, US Naval Forces Europe, Africa, and NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples ADM James G. Foggo III (Ret.) examined developments in the Women, Peace, and Security agenda by exploring issues and themes across Africa, Asia, and Europe.

October 2020 – [Adrift: COVID-19 and the Safety of Seafarers](#)

Joshua Tallis, Nilanthi Samaranyake, Carnival Corporation's VADM William Burke (Ret.), and former Department of the Navy Inspector General VADM Lee Gunn (Ret.) discussed how COVID-19 is shaping the lives of mariners and the societies that rely upon them.

September 2020 – [Prevailing Under the Nuclear Shadow: A New US Escalation Management Framework](#)

Madison Estes, Timothy McDonnell, and Brad Roberts (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) discussed approaches to managing escalation in crises and conflicts with nuclear-armed near-peer competitors.

August 2020 – [Oceans in Crisis: COVID-19's Impact on Maritime Economics and Seafarers](#)

Nilanthi Samaranyake, Joshua Tallis, and Ganeshan Wignaraja (L. Kadirgamar Institute) discussed how COVID-19 is affecting ocean activity, from maritime economic trends at the macro level, to the welfare of seafarers at the tactical level.

July 2020 – [Arctic East vs. West: US Strategy in the Pacific and Atlantic Arctic](#)

Joshua Tallis, Elizabeth Wishnick (CNA and Montclair State University), and Walter Berbrick (US Naval War College) discussed strategic objectives among great powers in the Arctic, specifically looking at the Arctic as a constellation of many interlocking regions, each with its own strategic considerations.

June 2020 – [Diego Garcia: US and Allied Basing Rights in the Era of Great Power Competition](#)

Nilanthi Samaranyake, Mark Rosen, and Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul from Mauritius discussed how developments in sovereignty politics could affect US military basing rights around the world, particularly in Diego Garcia, in an era of great power competition.

May 2020 – [Disease and the Navy: Fighting Outbreaks on and With Warships](#)

Steven Wills, Joshua Tallis, and Kara Mandell discussed how the US Navy has faced, overcome, suffered from, and adapted to disease outbreaks, onboard and onshore.

April 2020 – [Great Power Competition: Assumptions behind the Headlines](#)

Joshua Tallis, David Knoll, and Nilanthi Samaranyake discussed great power competition broadly as a concept for US national strategy and defense planning.