



MELAW20 & MELP50 ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECTS 20-21 MAY, 2025

Weldon Law Building, Room 105, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (HYBRID)

20 May 2025, Tuesday

8:30 am - 9:00 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Welcome Address**

Sarah Harding, Dean, Schulich School of Law
Sara Seck, Director, MELAW
Sara Ross, Associate Director, MELAW

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Panel 1: Ocean Equity and Biodiversity**

Moderator: Cecilia Engler

Sherry Pictou, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance (Tier 2); Associate Professor, MELAW

Indigenous Knowledges toward Ocean Equity

Vu Hai Dang, Expert at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (virtual)
Sustainable Use of Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction: Towards a More Effective Participation of Developing States in the BBNJ Agreement Implementation

Olga Koubrak, Post-doctoral Fellow, MELAW
Effectiveness of Marine Species at Risk Conservation within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme: Taking Stock and Charting Future Courses

10:30 am - 11:30 am **Panel 2: Mining the Deep Seabed: Some Considerations**

Moderator: Erin Dobbelsteyn

Tony Puthucherril, Professor, O.P. Jindal Global Law School, India
A TWAIL Approach to Mining at Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

Devdatta Mukherjee, PhD Candidate, MELAW
To Mine or Not to Mine is Not the Only Question: On Deliberative Democracy in Deep Seabed Mining

Panel 2: Continued

Keith Edward MacMaster, Lawyer, Weldon McInnis Barristers and Solicitors
Bypassing the Treaty: The United States, UNCLOS and Valuing Seabed Minerals – Towards a Sustainable Seabed Mining Asset Valuation Code

11:30 am - 11:45 am COFFEE BREAK

11:45 am - 12:45 pm Panel 3: Rethinking Governance of the Marine Environment

Moderator: Sara Ross (TBC)

David VanderZwaag, Professor Emeritus, MELAW
Governance and the Central Arctic Ocean: Cooperative Currents, Murky Waters

Sara Seck, Professor, Yogis & Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law; Director, MELAW
Relational Approaches to Business Responsibilities for the Marine Environment

Tahnee Prior, Co-founder and Co-lead, Women of the Arctic; Killam Post-Doctoral Fellow 2023
Integrating a Gender-Dimension into Arctic Pollution Governance: Reflections from North Iceland and South Greenland

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm LUNCH

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm Panel 4: Environment and the Changing Contours of Property and Personhood

Moderator: Sara Seck

Sara Ross, Associate Professor, MELAW
Finding the Legal Person: Models, Methods, Benefits, and Framework for Assigning Legal Personhood to Sea Ice

Kevin Berk, PhD Candidate, MELAW; Purdy Crawford Fellow
Coastal Protection in Nova Scotia: A Clash of Private Property Rights and Public Environmental Objectives

Jodi Lazare, Associate Professor, MELAW; Associate Dean, Academic
Private Property and Public Discourse: Industrial Animal Farming and the Environment

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm *Mi'kmaw Law, Language and Art: Interactive Learning with Naomi Metallic and Cheryl Simon*

Naomi Metallic, Associate Professor, MELAW; Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy

Cheryl Simon, Assistant Professor, MELAW

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm COFFEE BREAK

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Keynote Address:

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP

History and Prospects of Marine and Environmental Law in the Triple Planetary Crisis – Some Reflections

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

BREAK

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Early Days of MELP & Special Address:

Norm Letalik, Counsel, Metcalf & Company
Early Days of MELP

Aldo Chircop, Professor, MELAW
Special Address: MELP @50: A Retrospect of Canadian Maritime Law and Implications for the Programme's Mission

6:00 pm –

RECEPTION (Atrium)

21 May 2025, Wednesday

8:30 am - 9:00 am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Panel 5: Multi-level Fisheries Governance and Food Security

Moderator: Constance MacIntosh

Stuart Kaye, Director of ANCORS at the University of Wollongong (virtual)
Multilateral Fisheries Enforcement: Can Remote Sensing Technologies Strengthen the Prospects for more Effective Cooperation between States?

Jamie Baxter, Associate Professor, MELAW
Shellfish and Seaplants as Food: Lessons from and for Regulatory Reform

Cecilia Engler, Post-Doctoral Fellow, MELAW
International Fisheries and the Tangled Web of International Law

10:00 am - 11:00am

Panel 6: Ocean and Climate

Moderator: Camille Cameron (TBC)

Loveth Ovedje, PhD Candidate, MELAW
Bridging the Climate Finance Gap: Supporting Coastal LDCs and SIDS in Building Marine Resilience

Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, Associate Professor, MELAW
From Dialogue to Mechanism? Evaluating Legal Options for Ocean-Climate Action in the Paris Agreement

Constance MacIntosh, Professor, MELAW
Forced Migration at Sea: State and Ship-Master Responsibilities and Responses

11:00 am - 11:15 am	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Panel 7: Climate Litigation Moderator: Patricia Galvão Ferreira (TBC) Erin Dobbelseyn , Schulich Fellow 2024-2025, Research Associate, MELAW; PhD Candidate, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law <i>Fundamental (In)justice and the Existential Threat of Climate Change</i> Camille Cameron , Professor, MELAW <i>Climate Litigation: Is it Worth it?</i> Kolawole Abiri , PhD Candidate, MELAW <i>Repeat Players and the Rise of Environmental Authoritarianism: A New Era in Climate Litigation</i>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	LUNCH
1:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Panel 8: Business in the Marine Environment: Normative Adaptations and Inclusivity Moderator: Jamie Baxter (TBC) Jay L. Batongbacal , Professor, University of the Philippines College of Law; Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea of the U.P. Law Center <i>Reflections on a Social-Ecological Justice Framework, Fifteen Years Later</i> Adebayo Majekolagbe , Assistant Professor, University of Alberta Faculty of Law <i>A Dualist Approach to Offshore Renewable Energy Governance</i> Akinwumi Ogunranti , Assistant Professor of Law, University of Manitoba <i>Business and Human Rights Treaty—A Hard Look at Legitimacy</i> Olabisi Akinkugbe , Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law; Associate Professor, MELAW (virtual) <i>Geopolitics and Fragmentation in Africa's Critical Minerals and Value Chains Regimes</i>
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Closing Remarks Sara Seck , Director, MELAW
5:00 pm –	Ferry to Dartmouth Ferry from Halifax to Dartmouth, Halifax Ferry Terminal, 5075 George St, Halifax <i>Note: the ferry departs every 15minutes at 5pm 5:15pm 5:30pm 5:45pm</i>
6:00 pm –	Dinner: Wooden Monkey 40 Alderney Dr #305 (Above Ferry Terminal), Dartmouth <i>The Wooden Monkey Restaurant Halifax & Dartmouth NS</i>