

The environment on the collective maritime security agenda: fighting fish crime

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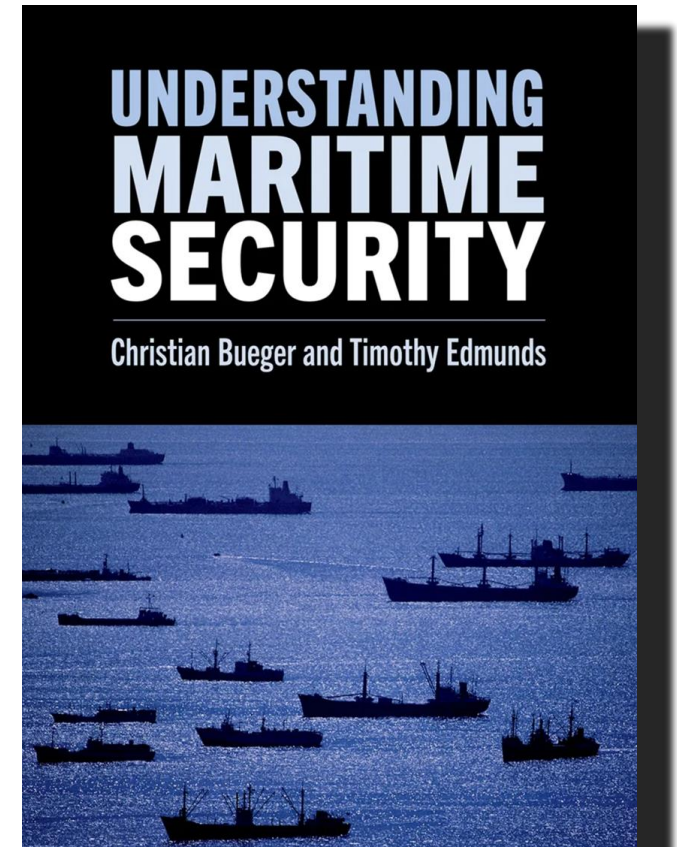
UNDERSTANDING MARITIME SECURITY

Christian Bueger and Timothy Edmunds



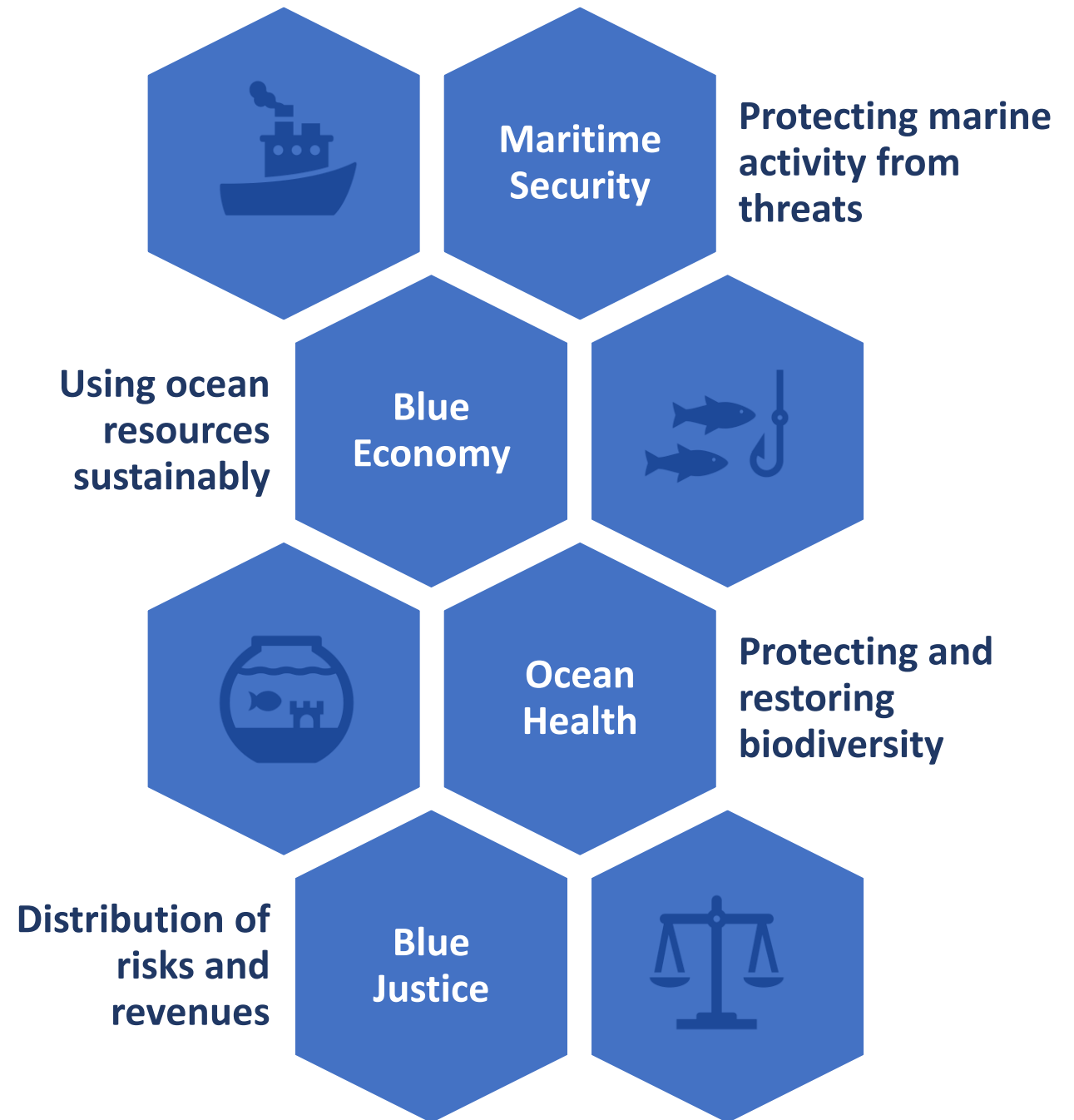
The Argument

- ✓ Addressing maritime security is mastering complexity & connecting the dots
- ✓ A focus on environmental crime allows to reconnect ocean policies and strategies.
- ✓ An opportunity for pan-Atlantic cooperation?

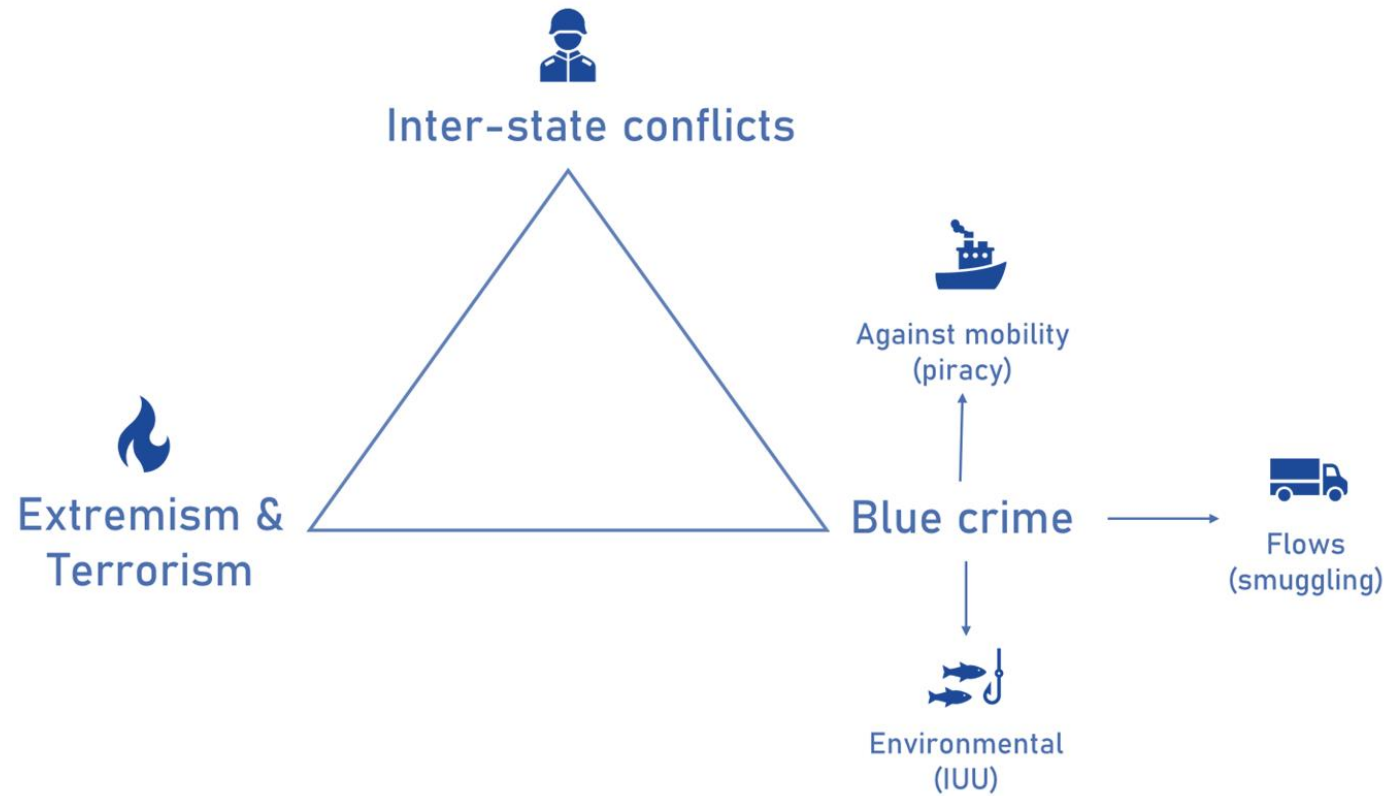


4 Blue Paradigms

Bueger, Christian and Felix Mallin. 2023. Blue Paradigms. Understanding the intellectual revolution in global ocean politics, *International Affairs*, 99(4), 1719–1739,



What is maritime security?



Three core dimensions

- ✓ A paradigmatic environmental crime
 - ✓ Biodiversity loss
 - ✓ Economic losses
- ✓ A facilitating crime
 - ✓ Smuggling of narcotics, weapons, humans, and other illicit goods
 - ✓ Justification for crime (Somali piracy)
 - ✓ Breeds spaces of insecurity (e.g. weapons, marginalization)
 - ✓ Corruption
- ✓ Terrorism?
 - ✓ Link to terrorist financing and sanctions?

How illicit
fishing
matters

- ✓ Interstate dimension?
 - ✓ Fishers and border disputes (e.g. Pakistan and India)
- ✓ State sponsored or tolerated illicit fishing
 - ✓ Iranian fishing in the Horn of Africa
 - ✓ Chinese fishing fleet
 - ✓ Spain?
- ✓ Link to greyzone warfare?
 - ✓ Fishers as agents of the state (China)
 - ✓ As cover for intelligence ops (Russia)
 - ✓ As protectors (Ireland)?

How illicit
fishing
matters

- ✓ Illicit fishing can connect four paradigms
- ✓ Opportunities:
 - ✓ From RFMOs to regional maritime security?
 - ✓ Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation (PAC)
 - ✓ Maritime Domain Awareness: Data and information sharing beyond fishery agencies
 - ✓ Marine Protected Areas, community policing and law enforcement (BBNJ)

An
opportunity?

Take away points

- ✓ Environment needs more attention in maritime security debates
- ✓ Fragmentation in ocean governance can be overcome
- ✓ Fight against illicit fishery as opportunity
- ✓ Institutions for maritime security → forthcoming UNIDIR report

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