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Coastal Waters, A Management Analysis, by J. Armstrong and P. Ryner

R. W. Johnson

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BOOK REVIEWS

COASTAL WATERS, A MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

by J. ARMSTRONG and P. RYNER

Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor Science Publishers Inc. 1978. Pp. 233.

Coastal zone officials who are developing management plans for the territorial sea will find this book highly useful. It is a fine starting point, serving as both a checklist and brief introduction to the many federal laws and programs that must be considered in developing a comprehensive management plan for coastal waters.

Coastal Waters was written on the accurate assumption that although most states are planning the management of shore and near shore areas, they have not yet assumed responsibility for managing the territorial sea. No state has yet attempted a comprehensive coastal water management program, and, indeed, most have not yet perceived the importance of this area. This book attempts to remedy this shortcoming by introducing the concept of comprehensive coastal water planning and guiding the reader step by step on a quick tour of the federal laws and programs pertinent to the development of such a program. The book is descriptive rather than analytical. It takes a handbook rather than treatise approach and devotes only a few brief paragraphs or pages to each relevant law or agency.

Dozens of federal laws and agencies must be dealt with in designing a comprehensive coastal water management program. Even experienced coastal zone managers find it difficult to discover and pull together the relevant information from so many disparate sources. To the less experienced manager, the task is formidable indeed. Although checklists of federal laws and agencies are available, they are limited because they fail to describe the role played by the laws and agencies. This book does just that.

The descriptions tend to be exceptionally brief. For example, the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, and the Department of the Interior are each given a single page, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act two pages. The writing style is direct and forthright. The authors steer clear of technical jargon and use a refreshingly simple, almost conversational style of writing.

Chapter 1 tells of the dearth of literature on coastal water planning as compared to the uplands, and describes the special problems posed by coastal waters planning. Chapters 2 and 3 describe the sources and limits of state and federal authority to manage coastal waters. The next seven chapters describe the federal laws and programs concerned with ocean dumping, fishery management, national defense, deepwater ports, tanker safety, liquified natural gas and

OCS oil and gas development. In the penultimate chapter the authors introduce various management concepts, describe different management objectives, and survey various regulatory programs available for coastal waters planning. They also comment on the more obvious costs and benefits accruing from management of the territorial sea. In the last chapter they profile the coastal zone management programs for Illinois, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Washington and Oregon.

Covering this broad range of material in 236 pages means that the book can be only a starting point. Serious planners must still seek out and study in depth most, if not all, of the laws and programs so briefly introduced. But *Coastal Waters* is a fine starting point and is especially valuable because it is at once so brief, readable, and comprehensive.

R. W. JOHNSON*

*Professor of Law, University of Washington.