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A study on china's marine ecological red-line policy

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Abstract

The Marine Ecological Red-line System is China's own protection system aimed at preserving the ecological environment in terrestrial and marine areas. Since the system was fully implemented in June 2016, almost all coastal provinces and cities in China now have marine ecological red lines.

This study first clarified the characteristics of the red line system by deciphering the policy documents on the marine ecological red line system. Then, from the perspective of institutional analysis, I analyzed the differences between China's marine ecological red line system and the marine functional zone system, the marine protected area system, and clarified the position of the red line system in the spatial planning system.

The purpose of the marine ecological red line system is to maintain the integrity and stable functioning of the ecological system structure. Each red line area is defined by the degree of vulnerability of the ecological environment and is not necessarily contiguous in space. From the perspective of the management system, an important feature of the marine ecological red line system is that it allows for the issuance of bans on activities in protected areas. Once an area is demarcated as a red line area, it is prohibited to revoke or reduce the area. Taking into consideration the factors mentioned above, it's able to say that the marine ecological red line system is a higher-level concept.

On the other hand, China's marine protection system, adopts a top-down approach, which means that little consideration is given to social factors such as the stakeholders who use the sea area from the stage of establishing protected areas, and the evaluation of the system's effectiveness focuses on the weight of indicators related to management. In the further research, it is need to determine the performance, and challenges of the marine ecological red line system.

Keywords

Marine protection system, Red-line system, Spatial planning system