

Jeffrey McGee

University of Tasmania, Australia

Governance of Southern Ocean Ecosystems in a Climate Changed World

Jeffrey McGee and Marcus Haward

School of Law and Oceans and Cryosphere Centre, IMAS, University of Tasmania

The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) is widely regarded as one of the more successful cases of international environmental and natural resource governance. The Antarctic regime provides the basis for peaceful use of the continent and its surrounding marine areas and fosters collaboration and cooperation in scientific endeavors. New challenges now face the ATS, including the impacts of human induced climate change. These climate impacts affect the Antarctic cryosphere and Southern Ocean marine ecosystems and contribute to increasing the range and scope of human activities carried out within the Antarctic continent and Southern Ocean. A key challenge for future Antarctic governance is therefore governance of Southern Ocean ecosystems. This paper argues that this challenge will be a key to institutional dynamics within the ATS, requiring new and profound institutional resilience within the Antarctic regime.