

Preface and Acknowledgements

The idea of this study emanated from one of many lively discussions I had during my time as a student on the LL.M. programme at University College London. In the aftermath of the disastrous *Prestige* sinking off the French Atlantic coast in November 2002, I came across the legal questions posed by Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas. Prof. Malcolm Forster of UCL encouraged me to pursue my research and eventually supervised a study on the Western European PSSA. I am greatly indebted to him for stimulating and sustaining my interest in this subject matter.

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