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Riserve naturali costiere: i rapporti fra Stato e Regione

Natural Coastal Reserves: Relationships between State and Regions

This article gives a theoretical view of the principles and rules applicable to natural marine reserves located in the State coastal areas.

The starting point is a historical review of Italian environmental law also governing marine reserves.

Later it focuses on the influence of European environmental principles and policy on national legislation. The devolution from central government to local government, due to the Constitutional law reform (Law 3/2001), established a new system governing functions and powers on granting licenses for management of marine reserve areas. The evolution of the concept and of the legislation on the environment created the need for uniform rules. Because of its nature, the maritime sector has always been a leader in the formation of uniform law.

Finally, the article points out that EU, national and regional legislation all play a role in marine and coastal areas and States may still have a prominent position.