

How to divide, how to share fluid space: Marine leisure and property rights in Japan

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Japan is one of the top three tourist generating countries, but has also a strongly developed domestic tourism sector. However, coastal resorts and marine leisure are less prominent than might be expected considering the long coastline and many islands. A strong fishing industry with traditional property rights, land reclamation projects, industrial and urban development along the coastlines compete with coastal tourism and marine leisure for the use of coast and sea. This paper will examine the complex web of traditional and modern forms of land- and sea-use and property rights that cover the fluid space of the sea and its borders. It will also discuss conflicts arising between different types of coastal tourism and marine leisure as well as with other sectors. Solutions found in Japan, with its densely populated coastal areas, can contribute to the discussion on how to divide, how to share the sea. This paper also aims to widen the traditional geographic focus on land use and to consider new concepts for fluid spaces like the sea.