

Stein Tønnesson

Peace Research Institute Oslo

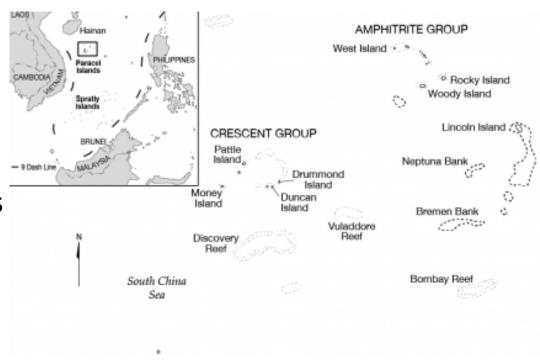


The Ten-Year Crisis in the South China Sea and How to End It

The 10th South China Sea International Conference Da Nang, 8-9 November 2018

Eight crises in the South China Sea

- 1909 : Pratas, Paracels
- 1931/33 : Paracels, Spratlys
- 1947 : Paracels
- 1956 : Freedomland
- 1973 : Oil, UNCLOS, Paracels
- 1988 : Johnson Reef
- 1995 : Mischief Reef
- 2009- : The ten-year crisis



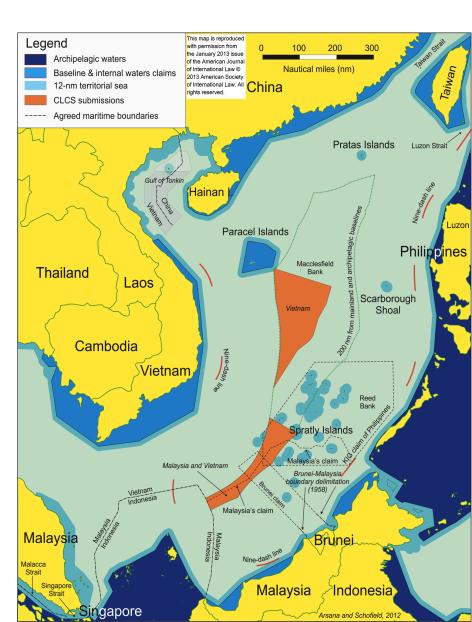


What changed in 2009?

- 2008 Beijing Olympics
- 2008 Financial Crisis
- 2009: Continental Shelf calculations
- 2009: Obama in Beijing

Result:

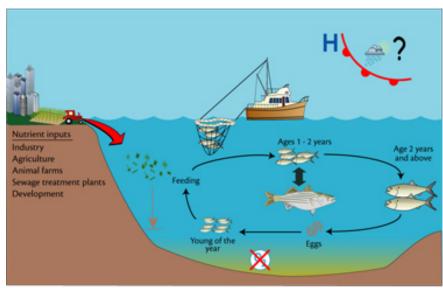
- Chinese assertiveness
- US pivot



Ten developments - mostly for the worse

- 1. Harder Chinese power
- 2. Militarization of reefs and islands
- Much tension but no war
- 4. Sino-US rivalry
- 5. External engagement
- 6. Two opposite legal standpoints
- 7. Division of ASEAN
- 8. No oil exploration
- 9. Fish depletion
- 10. R&A proliferation





Ecosystem based fisheries management aims to manage fisheries in a manner that considers a variety of interactions with the fishery of interest. Ecosystem based fisheries management is now strongly advocated and in some cases even mandated. Some of the main ecological interactions affecting menhaden biomass and recruitment are availability of food (plankton), level of predation from fish such as striped bass (**, and habitat quality such as dissolved oxygen (**), nutrient input **), and weather pattern variability ***.

Seven steps to save fish and peace

- 1. Scarborough JMZ
- 2. Delimit Spratly territorial waters
- 3. Spratly JMZs
- 4. CUES for coastguards, fishing vessels, FONOPs
- 5. Lines of actual control
- 6. Paracels JMZ
- 7. Joint South China Sea fishing regulations



