For a Sound Coastal Zone Management

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a comprehensive international agreement that seeks to set up a framework of rules for the use and management of the world’s oceans. The convention, which entered into force on November 12, 1994, is the principal and most comprehensive international legal instrument currently in force governing the use of the ocean and its resources. The convention is divided into four parts:

1. Part XI - Allocation of the high seas
2. Part XII - Economic activities in the area of the continental shelf
3. Part XIII - Fishery and other living resources of the high seas
4. Part XIV - Conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks

The convention aims to provide a legal framework for the sustainable use of marine resources, including fish, and the protection of the marine environment. It also seeks to ensure that the rights and obligation of coastal states are respected, while also promoting the conservation of marine biodiversity, and the sustainable uses of living marine resources.

The convention has been ratified by 183 states and is administered by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The convention has a secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, which is responsible for promoting the implementation of the convention and providing guidance and support to countries.

The convention is a key tool in the global efforts to address climate change and its impacts on the oceans. It is also seen as a platform for promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the oceans, particularly Goal 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, marine ecosystems, and biodiversity.