This authoritative Handbook examines the current state and the future needs of international law in addressing the key activities that pose threats to the marine environment. Its chapters explore the legal framework for protection of the marine environment, pollution of the marine environment, seabed activities and the marine environment, protection of marine biodiversity, regional approaches to the protection of the marine environment and climate change and the marine environment. Each chapter goes beyond a survey of existing law to identify the shortcomings in the legal regime and areas of critical research needed to address these shortcomings. This book provides significant insights into contemporary issues surrounding the efficacy of the regime created by the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and details the further work needed to ensure the design and implementation of effective regulation and management of human activities that affect the marine environment.

‘Written by eminent scholars and practitioners, this Handbook is an accessible treasure trove for diplomats as well as advocates, advanced scholars and law students, indeed anyone interested in the future of our oceans. I predict it will become an essential guidebook for all those involved in international ocean negotiations.’

– Kristina Gjerde, High Seas Policy Advisor, IUCN

‘For diplomats, practitioners, and scholars concerned with the myriad threats facing our oceans, the Elgar Research Handbook on International Marine Environmental Law is a must. It contains enlightening analysis of the complex ocean governance problems that imperil the marine environment and continue to evade solution. More importantly, it advances realistic ideas to move the environmental protection of our oceans forward. All of this from some of the sharpest thinkers on these issues today.’

– Donald K. Anton, Griffith University, Australia