

## **Gizem Demir, Marine Bioprospecting in Light of the New High Seas Treaty**

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The new High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, adopted in 2023, but which has not yet entered into force, provides for the equitable and fair sharing of benefits arising from activities with respect to genetic resources and digital sequence information stemming from areas beyond national jurisdiction. Nevertheless, the definition and scope of the notion of digital sequence information remain unresolved, also within ongoing parallel discussions in other fora. Under the present regulation, such as under the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the benefits derived from activities with respect to genetic resources and digital sequence information of areas beyond national jurisdiction, are not distributed fairly and equitably. The dissertation analyses the international legal landscape on the equitable and fair sharing of benefits resulting from the application of biotechnologies. To that end, it assesses whether and to what extent existing treaties can be interpreted to encompass recent technological developments in the field of bioprospecting. Furthermore, it demonstrates whether and to what extent existing legal gaps are filled by the New High Seas Treaty.