PANEL V:
REGIONAL MARITIME ENFORCEMENT
Improving Comprehensive Management and the Efficiency of Law Enforcement at Sea

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The ocean impacts a nation’s sovereignty, economy, and security. Thus, the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation depends on the vast surrounding ocean. All the following measures play an important role in the ocean management strategies of a nation:

- Obtaining a clear understanding of the maritime situation;
- Improving comprehensive maritime management and maritime law-enforcement; and
- Guarding the ocean space under the national jurisdiction according to the principles of both international and domestic laws.

The Situation at Sea Around China

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which was opened for signature in 1982 and became effective in 1994, marked the formation of a new international marine order. Since China ratified it on May 15, 1996, the marine situation around China has changed dramatically.

An Extension of National Jurisdiction

According to the traditional law of the sea, the national jurisdiction of China only extended to the territorial sea, an area of only 380,000 km². The specific regime of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf set forth by UNCLOS has extended the national jurisdiction at sea.

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