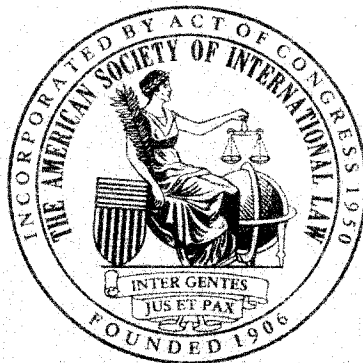


*American
Journal of
International
Law*

October 1999

Vol. 93 No. 4



Published by

The American Society of International Law

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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Offshore petroleum deposits straddling maritime boundaries or located in areas of overlapping claims are increasingly subject to joint development agreements. Today no general international law requires joint development agreements in such circumstances despite their common use. Rather, states have a duty to cooperate in good faith to establish an agreement for the development of these resources and an obligation of mutual restraint until that duty is fulfilled. Often the duty to cooperate will inexorably lead to joint development agreements.

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