GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Law and Ethics on Conservation of Aquatic Systems (C002469)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	peer teaching
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Cliquet, An	RE22	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Marine and aquatic conservation, international and European marine and aquatic biodiversity law, environmental ethics

Position of the course

This course aims at giving an overview of international and European law on the conservation of marine and aquatic biodiversity. Specific attention is given to the ethical foundation of nature conservation, the conservation and management of marine and aquatic protected areas and the protection of marine species.

Contents

The course consists of four parts.

1 Environmental ethics and legal implications
2 General introduction on biodiversity law: institutional context of international biodiversity law; sources, tools and compliance mechanisms in biodiversity law; legal regime of marine and aquatic natural resources
3 Marine and aquatic protected areas: overview of international, European and national law on marine/aquatic protected areas (legal possibilities for the designation and management of protected areas)
4 Species protection: overview of international and European law on the protection of marine species (international wildlife trade, migratory species, protection of marine mammals)

After this overview, all students are asked to give an oral presentation in small groups on a topic relating to marine or aquatic biodiversity law (on a topic of their choice).

Initial competences

1 No basic knowledge is required.
2 To have the attitude to be willing to develop a critic, scientific and interdisciplinary attitude.

Final competences

1 To have a basic knowledge of international and European marine and aquatic biodiversity law.
2 To have the abilities to understand international and European biodiversity law texts and sources.
3 To have the attitudes to do self study in international and European biodiversity law.

4 To be open minded for concepts of other disciplines (law, environmental ethics and social sciences).
5 To be able to give an oral presentation on a topic related to marine or aquatic biodiversity law.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

An overview of international and European law on the conservation of marine and aquatic biodiversity is given in ex cathedra lectures. There is frequent interaction with students. Peer teaching consists of presentations by students.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: An Cliquet, An introduction to international and European biodiversity law, Academia Press, 2026.
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Author : An Cliquet
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Slides

Name: An Cliquet, Law and ethics on conservation of aquatic systems. Handouts of powerpoint presentations, 2026.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Additional information: Available on Ufora

References

Bowman, M., Davies, P., Redgwell C., Lyster's International Wildlife Law, 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
Morgera, E. & Razzaque, J. (eds.), Biodiversity and Nature Protection Law, Encyclopedia of Environmental Law, Edward Elgar, 2017.
Gardner, R. et al (eds.), Wetlands and international environmental law, Edward Elgar, 2025.

Course content-related study coaching

1. Answering questions and enabling discussion during the lectures
2. Answering questions of the students through e-mail or otherwise

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- Permanent evaluation: evaluation of oral presentation in class.
- Periodic evaluation: written and oral exam with questions on knowledge and basic applications of international and European marine and aquatic biodiversity

law.

- For final score: if total is 10 (or more), student will pass (even if there is a failure on one of the examination methods)
- 2nd chance exam period: only retake necessary for examination method for which there was a failure
- Students who do not participate in all evaluations will be declared as unsuccessful for this course (even if the final score is 10/20 or more)

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodic evaluation (oral presentation 25%) and periodic evaluation (exam 75%)

Facilities for Working Students

Work students are not obliged to attend every class.