**Coastal protection in the Spanish legal system.**

In this paper, the A. focuses on the role of the State, the Autonomous Communities and local governments on the coastal protection.

The new law of 29th May 2013, n. 2, amending the basic law of the 28th June 1988 n. 22, introduced in Spain a new definition of “terrestrial maritime domain”, with important effects on the powers of the different governments that have expertise in coastal protection. It was, in effect, necessary to ensure integrity and conservation in front of the excessive coastal exploitation and the absence of an adequate legislation.

After a short introduction, the A. analyzes, first, the complexity of the competences conferred by the old law. The State has a central role in managing and planning that comes from ownership on state property. The powers of the Autonomous Authorities are defined in a generic way and without concreteness. The role of the local governments is secondary: it depends from the legislation of the Autonomies. The new law points out the possibility for the state to control local governments: the faculty to suspend acts and agreements in order to preserve state property without the need to go to court, that is called “antialgarròbico” clause. Technical recommendations of the state and state planning are the tools for the coordination of skills.

In the second part the A. describes the “demanialización” of the coasts as the way for the state to protect the coast and the environment, to defend general interests. This way, the state keeps its own powers of authorization and licensing. The new law reduces the cases of public property and effectively delegates to the regulations the definitions of the criteria for the identification of terrestrial maritime zone.

In closing the A. identifies the discipline of the state property and the uses regime, in particular the restrictions on the right of ownership.

Although the new law has been submitted to the positive judgment of the Constitutional Court, legal uncertainties about the concept of public property remain.