

Patrick Chester  
Master's candidate  
IR/PS, UC San Diego

Junjie Zhang  
Assistant professor of environmental economics  
IR/PS, UC San Diego

**“Resources and Conflict: Assessing the Role of Oil and Fishing Resources  
in the South China Sea Dispute for years 1980 to 2013”**

Abstract

This paper utilizes an original dataset of oceanic confrontations in the South China Sea (SCS) to investigate the role of oil and fishing resources in the South China Sea conflict. The conflict data was drawn from primary news sources in the Lexis Nexis database, encompassing the years 1980 to 2013. We test the hypotheses that competition over oil and fish resources is increasing the number of oceanic confrontations, through the use of proxy variables such as oil price, oil dependence and fish consumption. Although the SCS conflict has increasingly attracted global attention, this will be the first study on the region that has included quantitative analysis to test hypotheses about the causes of regional conflict.