

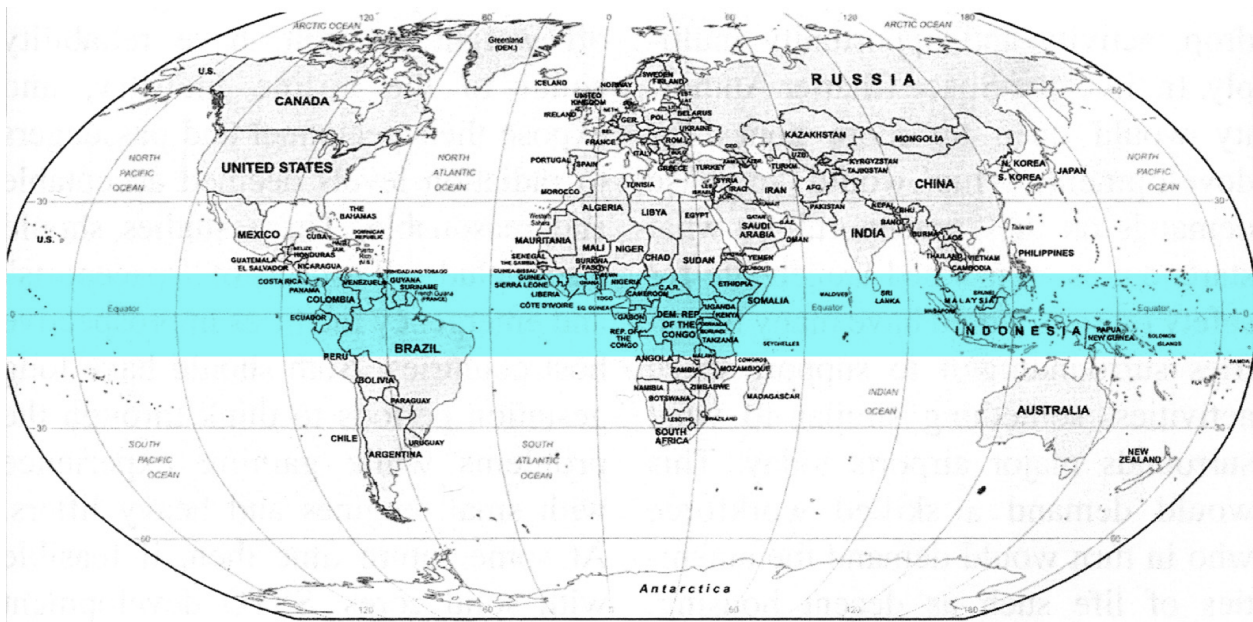
Seastead Flag to Free the World

by [Joe Quirk](#)

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Suppose I told you that the space available for freedom is more than twice the size of all the land on earth, and we could make it legally available at the stroke of a pen?

The path forward for liberty is right in front of us, if we just seize it. Circling the globe at the equator is a band of calm, hurricane-free oceans a thousand miles wide. The Goldilocks Zone for seasteads is larger than any country.



Heart of the Economy

Look around the room you're sitting in. Much of the wealth you're looking at flowed through the Panama Canal, which serves as the central hub of shipping in the Western Hemisphere. This "Bridge of the World, Heart of the Universe" is where the company Ocean

Builders is building seasteeds right now in cooperation with the visionary Panama government.

As I write, the largest 3D printer in Latin America is helping produce the first single-family affordable SeaPods.



It's not a new technology. Floating spars have served the oil and gas industry since the Ford administration when the quaintly named "Apple Computer Company" was founded.

Since then, the ugly duckling Apple 1 evolved into the sleek iPod, and the homely oil rig evolved into the elegant swan of the SeaPod.



SeaPods will cost less than the average American home. Ocean Builders are pre-selling these straight to customers. This is your covered wagon for the Blue Frontier.

If Ocean Builders sell enough to build a manufacturing village, they will build sturdier SeaPods further out in the suburbs of international waters. Your commute to business freedom may be shorter than your current commute to your land city.

“Where we’re going, we don’t need roads.” -- Chad Elwartowski, COO of Ocean Builders.



There's no limit to the spar design in principle. In oceans where waves are higher, the SeaPod can be built deeper and heavier. The proven spar design is scalable, from the SeaPod to the city.

Trick of the Trade

To understand how the magic of the SeaPod works, try this home experiment. Fill an empty wine bottle with three inches of sand, stick the cork back in, and float it in your tub. The trapped air in the bottle will provide buoyancy, and the sand in the bottom will provide ballast. If you get the weight just right, only the neck will float above the water. You can balance your rubber ducky on the cork.

Now comes the nifty part. Make waves with your hand. You may be surprised to see the bottle remain as fixed as a fence post as the perched rubber ducky smiles at you unperturbed by any motion. No, that's not because you drank a whole bottle of wine to run this experiment, as I did in [this video](#) for the sake of science. It's because the weight at the bottom of the bottle holds the bottleneck firm in the surface waves.



This engineering trick is why oil rig workers can play pool while floating in the rough North Sea. It will certainly work for SeaPods in calm turquoise tropical oceans. In fact the prototype designed by Ocean Builders remained stable in international waters for two months with a [couple in love living aboard](#).

The oceans have always been synonymous with freedom in the hearts of great explorers. The Blue Frontier is much safer to settle than the American frontier was, and a SeaPod sure beats a log cabin. Seasteading will serve as the best school for our children to learn about freedom, personal responsibility, mutual respect, and voluntary relationships. Let them experience adventure and

achievement [among heroes](#) at Ocean Builders, who are making history.

But if Ocean Builders are creating marine technology for high seas life in 2021, The Seasteading Institute better create the legal technology before they arrive.

That's where you come in.

The World is Yours

The nonprofit Seasteading Institute is forging the legal framework so that more than two-thirds of this planet becomes an open canvass for exploring voluntary societies.

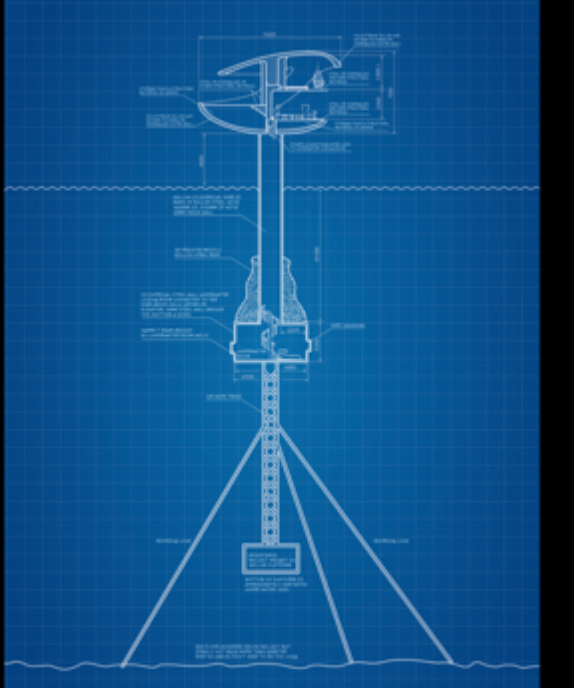
Tom W. Bell, Professor at Chapman University School of Law, and author of *Your Next Government? From Nation States to Stateless Nations*, has worked diligently to [create the legal ecosystem for seasteads](#) to flourish on the high seas.

Seasteads exempt from most international marine conventions if they:

1. do not voyage
2. < 12 m. hull at waterline
3. < 400 GT
4. < 15 persons
5. remain outside foreign ports

Only the MARPOL 73/78 provisions relating to oil, garbage, and air pollution apply to such a vessel.

* see TSI legal analysis: [*Seasteads Compliant with International Maritime Conventions.*](#)



[We need your support](#) to acquire a “open registry flag” specially made for seasteads. This would not be a flag for a ship, barge, oil

platform or any other old technology from previous centuries. This flag would be for a twenty-first century vessel, designed to float for a century at sea, requiring a new legal definition in established international law.



A ship's "open registry flag" looks like a regular territorial flag, but it's a unique legal entity, designed to foster variation in a market of governance options. Here's how it works.

Suppose you are captain of a cruise ship in Alaska flying a Panamanian "open registry flag". Your tour guide calls for silence as your passengers wait breathlessly for a glacier to calve. Suddenly a fistfight breaks out between two drunks who mistook this for a party cruise. In the mayhem, a lady celebrating her ninetieth birthday collapses and isn't breathing. If you call 911 to Panama's emergency services, you'll experience a loooong wait time.

As captain of the ship, you are a governance service provider. So much power and freedom comes with awesome responsibility. You are contractually obligated to race the birthday girl to your onboard hospital and lock the drunkards in the brig. If matters get worse, your medical team must rev up the helicopter, and your security team better fire up the taser. Several insurance companies and lawyers from multiple jurisdictions will require detailed reports.

Note your incentive to provide governance services with such excellence as make Panama proud. If you flog the miscreants and bury grandma at sea, your cruise line employers will have a lot of explaining to do when it's time to renew their Panama flagging license. Sure, I want to be a tin-pot dictator as much as the next guy—don't we all?-- but an "open registry flag" will keep seasteaders honest.

As long as your seastead flies a "open registry flag," you have legal standing as a legitimate vessel at sea, while at the same time shouldering a significant amount of the responsibility for self-governance. That's exactly what we want, right?

Flying the Flag of Freedom

Once the Seasteading Institute signs a contract with a respectable flagging registry, most of the earth's surface will become open to free private floating startup societies— personal governments to match our personal computers— setting examples of freedom that will improve land-based governments as significantly as North American federalism improved the Old World.

A flag specialized for seasteads will be a **public good**, to be used by any seastead company, in any ocean. That means our [nonprofit Seasteading Institute](#) must provide it.

Our goal is to establish a flag not just for vacationers on a cruise ship, but residents and businesses on a seastead.

We are negotiating with several flagging registries around the world. Countries typically contract out their flagging services to private companies. For instance, when I talk to the Palau International Shipping Registry, I speak to Greeks. When I'm exploring possibilities with The Bahamas Maritime Authority, I'm talking to New Yorkers.

The Bahamas flagging registry already flags the *MS The World*, a cruise ship famous for selling condos for permanent residents, not vacationers. The next step is to forge flagging rules for permanent residents on SeaPods, which will be much less expensive than homes on ships. They will also be [environmentally restorative](#). If we can beat ship condos on cost and environmental sustainability, what's to stop seasteading from growing?

The collapse of shipping has put us in a strong negotiating position. With a stroke of a pen on a contract with a flagging registry, we could more than triple the settling space on this planet. How much is two thirds of this planet's surface worth?

The Seasteading Institute needs the [financial support](#) of pioneers who understand seasteading is the immediate, practical, exciting future of freedom.

Making It Happen

Freedom is an awesome responsibility, so we need to do this safely. Certifying, insuring, and flagging the architectural design for will cost seven figures. Once that is achieved, companies can sell Seapods to families and businesses to float in international waters for six figures. That's comparable to an American house.

Consider all the land on earth. Millions of lives were lost to seize it by force. A seastead flag will more than double that space as a

research and development zone to explore options for the first voluntary societies.

If freedom truly proves itself to work better for prosperity, seasteading will be cash flow positive. Lots of flagging registries will compete to offer a diversity of rules to a variety of competing seasteading companies. If seasteading becomes as popular as cruise ships, they may gain standing to be recognized as unique startup societies. [My seasteading lawyer friends](#) are eager to argue that case in the courts of international law.

What about [hurricanes](#), [tsunamis](#) and [rogue waves](#)? What about [pollution](#), [pirates](#), and [poop](#)? Remember the same maritime industries that serve tens of thousands of ships, oil platforms, and “floatels” on the sea will serve seasteading. You can watch short video answers to the top 26 [Tough Questions Answered](#) about seasteading.

The ghosts of American pioneers who founded new societies that freed the world are watching us right now. Do we have the courage to stop arguing and start creating? Voting won't prove our point like floating.

Two-thirds of the earth's surface. If you want it, you can have it. You just need to [put skin in the seasteading game](#).