

Studying the Role of Iranian International Maritime Scientific Journals in the promotion of Marine Sciences Research Diplomacy among the Coastal Countries

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Abstract

Background and Theoretical Foundations: Background and Theoretical Foundations: Scientific journals play an important role in producing and publishing articles resulting from research projects. However, currently, only a small portion of the research published in journals at the national and international levels is related to the sea, and in addition, only a small percentage of these articles published internationally are available to researchers for free. Therefore, marine scientific journals play a significant role in the development of a modern maritime civilization and the promotion of maritime research diplomacy in the region and internationally in the 21st century, so that in fact, what has brought human civilization to this day has been writing, and scientific journals are considered as a symbol and pillar of writing and knowledge management and marine science research. From this perspective, to develop scientific interactions, these publishers are considered scientific infrastructures for publishing scientific articles resulting from research projects and regional interactions.

Methodology: In this study, using a descriptive-analytical method, the role of Iranian international marine scientific journals in the advancement of marine sciences among the coastal countries of the region (case study of the International Journal of Marine Policy) was examined.

Findings: The findings of this study indicate that the necessity of publishing international journals in scientific interactions and conferences such as the Caspian Sea Rim Universities and Research Institutes Conference, the Indian Ocean Rim Countries Conference (IONES), maritime conferences such as the Indian Ocean

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Rim Association (IORA) Conference, and academic scientific conferences for publishing scientific articles is evident.

Conclusion: The extensive network of scientific journals and committed researchers worldwide plays an important role in global development and sustainability. Effective and efficient science journals often spur robust, intellectual dialogue that can further advance science and scientific understanding, and even contribute to much-needed paradigm shifts. In general, international marine journals can be used as an efficient and effective infrastructure for publishing scientific articles in the field of marine sciences at the national and regional levels. Therefore, it is essential for Iran, as a maritime country, in the fields of marine sciences and marine scientific research in the fields of law and the sea, maritime geopolitics, maritime governance, maritime affairs management, policy-making on marine sciences, policy-making in the development of marine industries and sustainable maritime development, as well as interdisciplinary topics based on marine sciences, such as marine technology transfer rights, etc., to publish scientific journals with an international editorial board and to smooth out all regulatory and non-regulatory obstacles in this regard. Subsequently, with the support and participation of national, regional and even international scientific governance centered on the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, universities, research centers, domestic and international associations, and regional institutions such as IORA, there is the possibility of scientific interactions with the participation of scientific journals at the national and international levels. Also, in the field of these applied axes, sea-based development can be called governance partnership, to promote scientific interactions, regional and international conferences can be held, and articles and their results can be published in scientific journals. In this case, by utilizing maritime diplomacy based on maritime science research diplomacy, scientific-research relations can be expanded with maritime countries in the region, and the International Journal of Maritime Policy can be efficient and effective in this case based on the principles of research governance.

Keywords: Marine Sciences Research Diplomacy, Coastal Countries, International Journal of Maritime Policy



1. Introduction

Maritime scientific journals play a significant role in the development of a modern maritime civilization and the promotion of research diplomacy in the region in the 21st century, so that in fact, what has brought human civilization to this day has been writing, and scientific journals are considered as a symbol and crystallization of writing and knowledge management and research. From this perspective, in order to develop scientific interactions, scientific journals can be considered as soft scientific infrastructures for publishing scientific articles, findings and results of these marine-based scientific research. In fact, the necessity of publishing international journals in scientific interactions and conferences such as the Caspian Sea State Universities Conference, the Indian Ocean Rim Countries Conference (IONC) and other maritime conferences such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which is a dynamic intergovernmental organization that aims to strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region through 23 member countries and 10 consultative members, is evident.

In this article, the most important question raised is: What is the role of Iranian international marine scientific journals in developing marine science research diplomacy among the coastal countries of the region?

2. Statement of the problem (characteristics, importance, necessity and innovative aspects of the research):

Given the increase in the number of universities with a law degree in the country, naturally both students of this field and academic members and lecturers of these universities need a scientific-legal reference to study and use scientific resources. Considering that the subject of the law of the seas, maritime law and in general the relationship between law and the seas and

interdisciplinary maritime studies are among the important topics that are considered core and specialized courses at all levels of education, including bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, the International Journal of Maritime Policy is one of the few scientific journals on law and the sea and the only all-English legal journal in Iran that, in addition to interdisciplinary issues of the seas and oceans, specializes in the issues of law and the seas, and can lead to the quantitative and qualitative development of the field of law and its impact will expand in the future.

3. Research Questions

1. What is the role of scientific journals in the development of maritime science research diplomacy among maritime countries?
2. What role do Iranian international maritime scientific journals play in the development of maritime science research diplomacy among regional coastal countries?
3. What role does the legal and policy-making community of the International Journal of Maritime Policy play in the country's public and scientific diplomacy?
4. Given that this journal is in the law and jurisprudence sub-group, how can this journal become an efficient and effective infrastructure for the country's development in the field of law and interdisciplinary sciences?

4. Research hypotheses:

1. It seems that scientific journals play a fundamental role in the development of maritime science research diplomacy and among maritime countries.
2. It seems that Iranian international maritime scientific journals can play an effective role in the development of maritime science research diplomacy among regional coastal countries.
3. It seems that the legal and policy-making area of the International Journal of Maritime Policy can play a significant role in the country's public and scientific diplomacy.



4. It seems that given that this journal is in the law and jurisprudence subgroup, this scientific journal can have an efficient and effective infrastructure for the development of the country in the field of law and interdisciplinary sciences.

5. Research objectives:

Investigating the role of scientific journals in the development of maritime science research diplomacy and among maritime countries

1. Investigating the role of scientific journals in the development of maritime science research diplomacy and among maritime countries.

2. Investigating the role of Iranian international maritime scientific journals in the development of maritime science research diplomacy among regional and trans-regional coastal countries

3. Investigating the role of the legal and policy-making scientific journal International Journal of Maritime Policy in the country's public and scientific diplomacy

4. Considering that this journal is in the law and jurisprudence subgroup, how can this journal become an efficient and effective infrastructure for the country's development in the field of law and interdisciplinary sciences?

7. Research methodology:

The research method used in this article is descriptive-analytical, and the information for this article was mainly collected through library methods, both physical and electronic, especially scientific articles and websites.

8. The role of scientific journals in the development of educational-research interactions

1.8. Development of maritime research diplomacy

In fact, based on the studies conducted in English-language journals, the aforementioned themes in the field of scientific and educational diplomacy have been considered. Therefore, it is necessary for Iran, as a maritime country, to be involved in the fields of marine science education and scientific research in maritime areas, law, seas and oceans and the law of maritime conventions, political science and regional and maritime studies, maritime political geography and governance in the seas and oceans, maritime affairs management, water law, water management and trade in the seas and on land, policy-making on marine sciences, industries and sustainable maritime development, interdisciplinary studies on marine and ocean resources, including food security and marine food resources, maritime security and combating maritime crimes (including maritime terrorism, piracy, smuggling, etc.), dispute resolution, international trade and maritime transportation, comparative maritime-oriented studies in the fields of law, management, maritime-oriented economics and other trends in the maritime humanities, as well as Interdisciplinary topics based on marine sciences, such as marine technology transfer, should be published in scientific journals and then scientific articles, and international and regional conferences should be held on these applied themes. In this case, it is possible to institutionalize the expansion of relations with regional countries by utilizing maritime diplomacy based on maritime science education diplomacy.

2.8. Developing Educational Diplomacy in Marine Sciences

In fact, the necessity of publishing international journals in scientific interactions and conferences such as the Union of Caspian Sea State Universities Conference, the Indian Ocean Rim Countries Conference (IONC) and other maritime conferences such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Conference is examined in detail as follows:

1.2.8. Meeting of Association of the State Universities of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries (ASUCSLC):



Association of the State Universities of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries (ASUCSLC) consists of 57 members, including 7 universities from Azerbaijan, 12 universities, 2 science and technology parks and 13 research centers from Iran, 11 universities and 5 research institutes from the Russian Federation including Dagestan and Kalmykia, 4 universities and 2 research institutes from Kazakhstan and one university from Turkmenistan. Issues such as joint educational programs, the Association's roadmap and the signing of the protocol were discussed and exchanged at the meetings of this Association. Among the foreign universities participating in this meeting, we can also mention Astrakhan State University, Dagestan State University, Astrakhan Medical University, Astrakhan University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Kalmyk State University and Astrakhan Technical University from the Russian Federation, Aktau and Atyrau Oil and Gas Universities from Kazakhstan and Baku State University from Azerbaijan.

Meeting of the Association of State Universities of the Caspian Sea Region until 2023 the 22nd meeting of the Presidents of the Association of State Universities of the Caspian Sea Region was held at the University of Guilan. The meeting was held with the presence of presidents and vice presidents of more than 30 members of the Association from the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization, 2019).

Cooperation between universities in the Caspian Sea littoral countries contributes to the scientific advancements of students and universities present, and according to reports from various Caspian littoral universities, 14 international scientific and practical conferences, 12 seminars and round tables have been held so far, in which issues of environmental safety during the extraction of oil and gas fields in the Caspian region, alternative energy, fish stock restoration, etc. were discussed and examined. Also, 10 international scientific and practical conferences and competitions were held with the participation of undergraduate and graduate students. The

publication of a group monograph entitled "The Caspian Sea: A Destination for the Future" is another achievement of scientific exchanges between Caspian littoral countries (Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization, 2019).

2.2.8. Indian Ocean Rim Association

The Indian Ocean Rim Association, originally known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, is an international organization that began in 1997 with the initiative of India and Mauritius. (Indian Ocean Rim Association, 2014)

This association has 19 member countries from the three continents of Asia, Africa and Oceania, which in fact has a population of more than 2.7 billion people and an area of 20.5 million square kilometers. The goals of this organization are to promote sustainable growth and balanced development in the region and among the members of the association, to focus on those areas of economic cooperation that provide maximum opportunities for common interests and mutual benefits, and to expand trade liberalization and remove barriers to trade, capital and technology flows in the Indian Ocean region. Geographically, this association covers an area of more than 20.5 million square kilometers of the three continents of Asia, Africa and Oceania and has a population of nearly 2 billion people. Australia, India, Iran, and South Africa are among the largest countries in the union, and India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Iran are also among the most populous countries in the union.

The Indian Ocean Rim Cooperation Union (IOC) is based on improving and accelerating economic cooperation and bringing together representatives of governments, businessmen and universities. It will strive to expand mutual understanding and beneficial cooperation through consensus, an evolutionary approach and non-interventionism, and will apply the principles to all member states, taking into account the principle of multilateralism.

The general objectives of the said union are also defined based on trade liberalization, strengthening educational and technological cooperation, and creating trade and investment facilities with the aim of strengthening trade and economic relations between member states. The most important



cooperation projects between members are the establishment of a fisheries support unit for cooperation in the field of fishing and aquaculture, the development of tourism, the establishment of a maritime transport council, and the establishment of a science and technology transfer center.

The issue of cooperation between members regarding sources of pollution of the Indian Ocean, environmental protection and reserves of the Indian Ocean, the development of trade and investment, energy, and the establishment of technology parks are also discussed.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic intergovernmental organization that aims to strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region through its 23 member states and 10 consultative members. The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an intergovernmental organization established on 7 March 1997.

The vision of the Indian Ocean Rim Association originated in the visit of the late South African President Nelson Mandela to India in 1995, where he said:

“The natural imperative of the facts of history and geography must expand itself to encompass the concept of the Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic cooperation (NELSON MANDELA, 1995).

This sentiment and logic underpinned the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in March 1995, and the creation of the Indian Ocean Rim Forum (then known as the Indian Ocean Rim Forum for Regional Cooperation) two years later, in March 1997. In fact, as the third largest ocean interconnected by trade routes, controlling the main shipping lanes carrying half of the world’s container ships, one-third of the world’s bulk cargo and two-thirds of the world’s oil cargo, the Indian Ocean remains a vital route for international trade and transport.

The member countries, which are home to nearly 2.7 billion people, are rich in cultural diversity and a wealth of languages, religions, traditions, arts and cuisines.

These countries vary considerably in terms of area, population and levels of economic development. They may also be divided into a number of sub-regions (Australia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, and East and Southern Africa), each with its own regional groupings such as ASEAN, SAARC, GCC, and SADC. Despite such diversity and difference, these countries are linked by the Indian Ocean.

3.2.8. Maritime diplomacy based on marine sciences at the international level: Communication is considered the most important tool of soft power and is considered an essential tool for creating the power of the state-country in the current world. In fact, scientific diplomacy enhances the position of each state-country in the international environment in addition to other types of diplomacy, including public and political diplomacy of the country, and is used in parallel with the name of the country, so they complement each other and are a modern tool for creating the image of the state-country in the long term. Among maritime countries, marine sciences, due to their specificity, can have a special effect both in the development of maritime diplomacy and in the development of scientific diplomacy and even public diplomacy, which ultimately strengthens the country's macro diplomacy.

9. Review of the opinions of various experts on the development of international maritime journals

In examining the role of the International Journal of Maritime Policy, four questions were asked to experts in the field of maritime sciences, and the analysis of their answers is presented in four parts as follows:

1. What role do Iranian international maritime scientific journals play in the development of maritime science research diplomacy among regional coastal countries?
2. What role does the legal and policy-making area of the International Journal of Maritime Policy play in the country's public and scientific diplomacy?



3 .Given that this journal is in the law and jurisprudence sub-group, how can this journal become an efficient and effective infrastructure for the development of the country in the field of interdisciplinary law and sciences?

4. What suggestions do you have for promoting maritime humanities, including the law of the sea, maritime law, marine environmental law, humanitarian law at sea, and maritime labor law?

1.9. Studying the role of Iranian international marine scientific journals in developing marine science research diplomacy among regional coastal countries:

Iranian international marine scientific journals play a significant role in developing marine science research diplomacy among regional coastal countries. These journals serve as a platform for researchers, scientists, and experts from different countries to share their findings, exchange knowledge, and collaborate in marine science research.

By publishing research articles, reviews, and scientific papers related to marine science, these journals facilitate the dissemination of valuable information and promote scientific dialogue among regional researchers. This exchange of knowledge helps advance marine science research and strengthens cooperation among coastal countries.

Iranian international marine scientific journals also provide an opportunity for researchers to connect and network with their counterparts in neighboring countries. This scientific diplomacy helps bridge the gap between countries and promote mutual understanding and collaboration in marine science research projects.

In short, Iran's international marine scientific journals act as a catalyst for the development of marine science research diplomacy among coastal countries in the region by facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge, promoting collaboration, and strengthening understanding between researchers in this field (Moayeri, Hamid, 2022).

Iran's position in the region is strategic, given that parts of the Sea of Oman are considered territorial waters that control traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, and for this reason, it can be acknowledged that Iran, as one of the coastal countries, can play an important role in maritime policy-making in the region. Coastal countries, realizing the importance of their position, try to make decisions that are mainly based on understanding various issues related to maritime law in order to achieve progress and development through the maritime industry. Planning for the implementation of decisions is effective if it is based on science and knowledge. Iranian international maritime scientific journals, with specialized research in the field of maritime law, can play an important role in increasing the impact of Iranian diplomacy in the region. In particular, the UAE has become one of the important maritime transportation centers in the region by establishing scientific and specialized centers for maritime law and launching arbitration centers related to this legal trend, and scientific investment in this field has had a great impact on the current position of this country (Aghaei, Sara, 2023).

Given that in the context of the gradual development of international law regulations, especially the law of the seas in the form of various topics, the doctrine and theories of lawyers have been crystallized both in the academic field and in the form of consultation, as well as explanation and interpretation in scientific works and in the form of some reputable scientific journals. In this regard, the creation of maritime knowledge by experts within the framework of international maritime journals and the application of this knowledge in the field of domestic and regional maritime policy-making can also play a significant role in the expansion of maritime law and seas literature at the regional level (Foroughinia, Hossein, 2022).

Since the use of the seas for trade, economy (especially in matters of transportation of goods and passengers) and even exploration and military has had a special place since ancient times, all coastal and even non-coastal countries have had a special look at access and investment in the seas, and it can be said that one of the most important international issues has been the issue of the law of the seas, to the extent that several conferences and



conventions have been formed for this purpose. Considering that the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its approximately 5800 km coastline, is considered a maritime country and also has access to the oceans, it has been necessary and continues to be active in all matters related to the seas in order to be present in the international arena and communicate with maritime countries. One of the important reasons for the progress of developed countries has been conducting research in all fields, and naturally, the issue of the seas has also been of great importance, and therefore scientific research activities, along with technical matters, are of doubly important. Today, the only way for countries to progress is through research and development of science and technology. Given Iran's position in the Persian Gulf and the world, such activities are the solution to many economic and security issues. Therefore, the existence of centers to concentrate such activities has a great impact on the country's progress. In the meantime, scientific journals active in the field of the sea can be a powerful arm for the country's scientific and political community (Jafari, Afshin, 2023).

In the field of maritime disciplines, maritime humanities, especially maritime law and maritime law, there is a certain lag in the progress and number of articles presented compared to engineering disciplines. We have made good progress in engineering sciences in the past years, and this is in the number of articles presented, but in the field of diplomacy and law and jurisprudence, it has not developed well.

These views are not present in engineering articles, and the International Journal of Maritime Policy can publish the views of the elite.4- If the International Journal of Maritime Policy is more carefully examined and well-informed and accepts interdisciplinary articles, it can lead to the development of interdisciplinary and joint studies. For example, the marine environment that we face in semi-enclosed and closed seas, and such as water transfer projects from the sea, which is an interdisciplinary position (Moonesun, Mohammad, 2023).

2.9. Examining the role of the International Journal of Maritime Policy in the country's public and scientific diplomacy:

The International Journal of Maritime Policy (IJMP) plays an important role in a country's public and scientific diplomacy in several ways:

1.2.9. Dissemination of knowledge: IJMP serves as a platform for publishing research articles, policy analyses, and scientific papers related to maritime policy. By disseminating knowledge on various maritime policy topics, the journal helps educate the public, policymakers, and other stakeholders on important maritime issues.

2.2.9. Policy impact: The journal's research articles and findings can influence policy debates and decision-making processes. Policymakers and government officials often refer to scientific journals such as IJMP to gain insights, perspectives, and evidence-based recommendations for the development and implementation of maritime policies. This impact can help shape the country's maritime policy agenda and outcomes.

3.2.9. International collaboration: IJMP provides a platform for international collaboration in the field of maritime policy research. It attracts contributions from scientists, experts, and policymakers from different countries and strengthens the global network of maritime policy experts. Through this collaboration, the journal helps facilitate scientific diplomacy by promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation between countries on maritime policy issues.

4.2.9. Public Diplomacy: IJMP can contribute to a country's public diplomacy efforts by showcasing its expertise, research capabilities, and thought leadership in maritime policy. Publishing high-quality research and analysis in a reputable international journal enhances a country's reputation and visibility in the global maritime community. This can help build trust, credibility, and positive perceptions among other countries.

Therefore, the International Journal of Maritime Policy plays an important role in a country's public and scientific diplomacy by disseminating knowledge, influencing policy debates, strengthening international cooperation, and contributing to public diplomacy efforts in the field of maritime policy (Moayeri, Hamid, 2022).



Given that in the International Journal of Maritime Policy, issues related to maritime law are published in the form of articles, and in the article, a minor issue is addressed in detail and its various dimensions are discussed and examined; the results play an effective role in improving the scientific quality of maritime law. The quality of maritime law education in universities is improved when numerous scientific works are published by experts in this field (Aghaei, Sara, 2023).

Presenting theories and analysis of maritime challenges by lawyers interested in maritime issues in the form of maritime scientific journals can lead to the development of maritime science and technology diplomacy, which in fact will support public diplomacy and ultimately increase scientific knowledge and develop the capacity for maritime research and technology transfer (Foroughinia, Hossein, 2022).

Since most scientific journals active in the field of the seas are engaged in technical and engineering matters related to the seas, the International Journal of Maritime Policy is one of the few journals that focuses mainly on the law of the seas and related issues such as environmental law, the right to exploit the seabed and subsoil, and other legal issues related to maritime areas. Perhaps another reason for the prominence of this journal is that it is published in English, and for this reason, it expresses the opinions and activities carried out at the domestic and regional levels in an international language and has introduced more of the scientific research achievements of our country's specialists. It should be noted that the international nature of this journal has led to scientific cooperation between prominent professors from domestic and foreign universities and domestic and foreign expert researchers. Also, Imam Khomeini University of Marine Sciences (IKUMS) is among the universities that, in addition to technical and engineering matters, are also aware of the importance of legal issues in marine sciences, and for this reason, the publication of this journal has also created a scientific complement for the scientific members of that university (Jafari, Afshin, 2023).

3.9. Review the role of the journal (IJMP) in the development of interdisciplinary law and science:

The International Journal of Maritime Policy (IJMP), as a journal focusing on law and jurisprudence in the field of maritime policy, can become an efficient and effective infrastructure for the development of the country in the field of law and interdisciplinary science in the following ways:

1.3.9. Interdisciplinary research: IJMP can encourage interdisciplinary research by promoting collaboration between legal experts, scholars, policymakers, and scientists from different disciplines. By publishing articles that integrate legal perspectives with scientific research, the journal can foster a better understanding of the complex issues at the intersection of law and science in the maritime domain.

2.3.9. Policy relevance: IJMP can emphasize the practical implications of interdisciplinary research by focusing on policy-relevant issues and providing insight into real-world challenges. This approach can attract a wider audience, including policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders involved in maritime affairs. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, the journal can help develop effective policies that address legal and scientific complexities.

3.3.9. Knowledge Exchange: IJMP can serve as a platform for knowledge exchange among legal scholars, scientists, and practitioners. This can facilitate the sharing of research findings, case studies, and best practices, enabling a deeper understanding of the legal and scientific dimensions of maritime policy. This exchange can stimulate collaborative efforts and promote the development of innovative solutions to address emerging challenges.

4.3.9. Capacity Building: The journal can contribute to capacity building in the field of law and interdisciplinary science by publishing articles that provide guidance, methodologies, and frameworks for conducting research and addressing complex issues. It can also serve as a resource for educational



institutions, training programs, and policymakers seeking to enhance their understanding of the legal and scientific aspects of maritime policy.

By adopting these approaches, the International Journal of Maritime Policy can become a strong infrastructure for the country's development in the field of law and interdisciplinary sciences. It can strengthen collaborations, enhance policy communication, facilitate knowledge exchange, and help build capacity, ultimately enhancing the country's capabilities in addressing legal and scientific challenges in the maritime domain (Moayeri, Hamid, 2022).

4.3.9. The need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of journals based on development goals:

International maritime journals, especially the scientific journal Maritime Policy, play an infrastructural role when they go beyond the stage of publishing scientific articles and, by establishing effective communication with relevant institutions, including the Ports and Maritime Organization, can respond to the legal problems and challenges of the country in the field of maritime affairs. Of course, the conditions for publishing articles in the journal can also be done with such a correct orientation. In other words, the journal can fulfill its mission as an efficient infrastructure when it focuses its activities on solving the legal problems of the country in the field of maritime law and the law of the seas, and in general the relationship between law and the sea. This result is achieved when, first, the national interests in the field of maritime law are explained, secondly, the current problems of the country in this field are raised, that is, determining the topic, which is the first step for research, is correctly specified. Thirdly, the different dimensions of the topic are examined and, finally, appropriate solutions are presented. By going through these steps, the research results can be provided to national authorities as a scientific achievement, so that they can make the necessary plans to achieve the goals (Aghaei, Sara, 2023).

Given the specialization of scientific subjects in the academic field, although maritime issues and the law of the sea are interdisciplinary, by studying the relevant literature and in order to extract the initial indicators for realizing the maritime goal of sustainable development through academic forums, it is better to provide a platform so that, regardless of tendencies and tastes, and with criticism and conflicting opinions, we can use the ideas of experts and experts in marine sciences and technologies in the country's legal and maritime scientific publications (Foroughinia, Hossein, 2022).

Given the increasing number of universities with a law degree in the country, naturally, both students of this field and academic members and lecturers of these universities need a scientific-legal reference to study and use scientific resources. Considering that the issue of maritime law is one of the important issues that is considered as a core and specialized course in all levels of education, including bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees (international law), therefore, as mentioned, the International Journal of Maritime Policy is one of the few scientific journals that, in addition to technical and engineering issues of the seas, specifically deals with maritime law issues from the perspective of jurisprudence and law, and has led to the quantitative and qualitative development of the field of law (Jafari, Afshin, 2023).

4.9. The role of (IJMP) in promoting Maritime Humanities:

Maritime Humanities, including the law of the sea, maritime law, maritime environmental law, humanitarian law at sea, and maritime labor law need promotion. Despite being one of the coastal states in the region, Iran has not made a proper investment in the field of maritime law and navigation. In order to progress and develop this legal trend, it is necessary to first promote education and research in this field. In this regard, it is recommended that the journal, by publishing accepted scientific articles in each quarter, place a number of issues that are currently identified as legal problems in one of the headers of the journal's website. The importance of this suggestion is that some researchers are interested in research in the direction of maritime law, but due to lack of access to relevant institutions, they are not aware of the



country's legal problems in this field. Therefore, by guiding those towards the desired topics, in addition to optimizing research costs, desirable results will also be achieved (Aghaei, Sara, 2023).

Promoting maritime humanities and addressing various aspects of maritime law requires a multifaceted approach because time, space and cost constraints, coupled with the unlimited and often unknown scope of responsibilities for managers, legislators and officials, limit the ability to address many of the past, present and future issues (which are ambiguous and unknown). Here are some suggestions for raising awareness and addressing the rights you mentioned:

1.4.9. Education and research: Encourage educational institutions to include maritime humanities as part of their curricula. This could include interdisciplinary programs that cover the legal, social, cultural and historical aspects of maritime law. In addition, supporting research projects in these areas can help expand knowledge and understanding of the issues through the publication of edited issues, articles and books.

2.4.9. Awareness campaigns: Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of maritime law and the interrelationship of various aspects such as environmental, humanitarian and labor law. Use various media, including social media, documentaries and seminars to reach a wider audience and promote engagement. (Glips, digests, handouts, think tanks, etc).

International cooperation: Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between States, international organizations and civil society groups to address maritime law issues. Encourage dialogue, information sharing and joint initiatives to promote best practices and ensure the protection of rights in the maritime domain. (Invite experts from friendly and neighboring countries, establish online chat rooms and publish their content in the form of videos and articles, etc).

3.4.9. Policy development and implementation: Support the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and regulations to protect and promote maritime law. This could include measures to address environmental degradation, improve working conditions for maritime workers, protect humanitarian rights at sea, and establish frameworks for resolving disputes related to maritime law. (Participation in legal and regulatory study and research forums)

4.4.9. Partnering with NGOs and universities: Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions specializing in maritime studies and human rights to conduct research, raise awareness, and advocate for the protection of maritime rights. These partnerships can bring together expertise and resources to develop innovative solutions and influence policy debates.

1.4.4.9. Capacity building: Support capacity-building initiatives to increase knowledge and skills related to maritime law. This could include training programs, workshops, and fellowships for individuals working in areas such as maritime law, environmental protection, humanitarian aid, and labor law.

2.4.4.9. Engaging with the private sector: Encourage the private sector, especially the maritime industry, to prioritize and support maritime law. Through partnerships, incentives and regulatory frameworks, promote responsible business practices, including environmental sustainability, fair working conditions, and respect for humanitarian rights.

By implementing these recommendations, awareness, understanding and advocacy for various aspects of maritime law, including the law of the sea, marine environmental law, and humanitarian law at sea, and maritime labor law can be promoted (Moayeri, Hamid, 2022).

In order to change Iran's geopolitical weight in the sea area by using the capacities and talents of the maritime regions that have the ability to affect national power, and considering that unfortunately, despite efforts, the desired policy has not been made in the capacities of the sea and coasts of Iran, it seems that having a maritime mindset among decision-makers is



essential in the country's macro-planning, which requires the expansion of the branches of marine humanities alongside basic sciences and techniques and marine technology. At the same time, the serious importance of marine humanities in the field of education and research is an important issue that must be considered for training and producing a generation of experts in this field to serve society in the maritime and seas fields and sustainable sea-based development (Foroughinia, Hossein, 2022).

Today, one of the criteria for measuring scientific development in the world, especially in the academic community, is the publication of scientific articles; of course, with a high quality level; and most governments consider their development and progress to be due to the scientific and technical research of experts, so scientific journals have played a role as an important source in the economic development of countries, and this development has also been influential in other areas such as public policymaking, legislation, and even the judiciary. According to most lawyers, the doctrine or theory of legal scholars is considered one of the (sub) sources of international law, and scientific journals have transferred a large part of these theories to the scientific community and governments, and therefore, helping and supervising the promotion and development of these journals has significantly affected the progress of countries and international organizations, to the extent that some international documents have emerged and been written with inspiration from these scientific texts. With this introduction, we can understand the importance of journals such as the International Scientific Quarterly of Maritime Policy, because in addition to scientific activity, they are the right arm of the government and the governance system. Considering the development of modern international law into other areas such as environmental law, human rights, and humanitarian law, and its relationship with international organizations such as the International Labor Organization, ICAO, IMO, and other organizations related to the seas, it is appropriate to pay special attention to these topics when accepting new articles (Jafari, Afshin, 2023).

10. Final Analysis

To change Iran's geopolitical weight in the seas, it is necessary to use the potential capacities and talents of marine areas that have the ability to affect national power. Of course, implementing sea-based development policies requires scientific and research infrastructures. The International Scientific Journal of Marine Policy is one of these infrastructures. Given that, unfortunately, despite efforts, a favorable policy has not been established in the use of Iran's sea and coastal capacities, it seems that in the country's grand planning, having a marine mindset among decision-makers and decision-makers is essential. This requires the expansion of the branches of marine humanities alongside basic sciences and techniques and marine technology. At the same time, the serious importance of maritime humanities, especially maritime law, and maritime law, given the presence of more than 5,700 kilometers of coastline in the field of maritime law education and research in various fields, including maritime law, maritime law, marine environmental law, and other fields, is an important issue that must be considered for training and producing a generation of experts in this field to serve society in the field of sustainable maritime development (Foroughinia, Hossein, 2022).

Therefore, it is necessary for Iran, as a maritime country, to publish scientific journals with international editorial boards in the fields of marine science education and scientific research in maritime areas, maritime law, law of the seas, marine environmental law, maritime conflict law and maritime convention law, water law, political science and maritime-based regional studies, maritime geopolitics and governance in the seas and oceans, maritime affairs management, policy-making on science, policy-making in the development of maritime industries and sustainable maritime development, interdisciplinary studies on marine and ocean resources, including food security and marine food resources, maritime security and combating maritime crimes (including maritime terrorism, piracy, smuggling, etc.), maritime dispute resolution law, international trade and maritime transportation security, comparative maritime-based studies in the



interdisciplinary fields of law, management, maritime-based economics and other trends in the maritime humanities, as well as interdisciplinary topics based on maritime sciences, such as maritime technology transfer law. Then, it undertakes to publish scientific articles and disseminate it at the national and international levels and also hold international and regional meetings on these practical axes. In this case, it is possible to institutionalize the expansion of relations with the countries of the region by utilizing maritime diplomacy based on maritime science education diplomacy.

Conclusion

Scientific journals, as research infrastructures, continue to play an important role in the development of science and technology in various disciplines to their scientific audiences. In this highly efficient and effective work at the national and international levels, scientific journals, as a soft research infrastructure, explain important and complex scientific challenges, the findings and results of scientific research. Scientific journals are also influential in institutionalizing a culture of sustainable development and in various trends and disciplines at the national and international levels, and a wide network of scientific journals and committed researchers around the world plays an important role in global development and sustainability. Quality scientific journals often stimulate strong and intellectual conversations that can further advance science and scientific understanding and even contribute to much-needed paradigm shifts.

The extensive network of scientific journals and committed researchers worldwide plays an important role in global development and sustainability. Effective and efficient science journals often spur robust, intellectual dialogue that can further advance science and scientific understanding, and even contribute to much-needed paradigm shifts.

Scientific journals with a focus on marine sciences can also play an efficient and effective role in sustainable development at the national and international levels in the development of a modern maritime civilization and

the expansion of educational diplomacy among maritime countries from a structural and behavioral perspective. From a structural perspective, various institutions such as IONES, the Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation Union, the Caspian Sea Rim State Universities Union, and the Indian Ocean Rim States Summit can have a very good cooperation in the field of maritime science and technology diplomacy. In this regard, the Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation Union, the "Regional Center for Science and Technology Transfer" (RCSTT) was established in Tehran in 2008 with the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation Union, with the aim of promoting the level of new technologies and exchanging knowledge and experiences between member countries.

Also, a regional maritime center is one of the union's approvals to be established in Oman, which has not yet been implemented. In addition, in this union, an academic group for academic communication and development of marine sciences, consisting of academic experts and representatives of educational and research departments, has been formed with the aim of strengthening research work among members. The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is responsible for following up and implementing the programs and projects of this group and is also responsible for holding the University Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region (UMIOR) meeting.

The most important scientific projects of this group include studying the sources of pollution of the Indian Ocean, developing educational management, technology transfer, reducing natural disasters, managing coastal areas, and following up on the results of the university exchange meeting. In fact, international marine scientific journals can create constructive connections in this academic group by institutionalizing good scientific governance. So that the authors of this article, with virtual and in-person participation in the meeting of this union, introducing Iranian international scientific journals and the 100% similarity of the themes of the journals with the themes of the meeting, and the lack of participation of



official representatives of the country in this meeting are signs of the lack of efficient and effective scientific communication. It is worth noting that due to the absence of official country representatives in this conference, ten minutes of the Iranian representative's time were allocated to the scientific director of the International Journal of Maritime Policy.

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