



**ASCOMARE Yearbook, Volume 4:**  
**‘Humanity across the waves: Exploring the  
interplay between the Law of the Sea and Human  
Rights Law’**

**Call for papers**

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*ASCOMARE Yearbook (Vol.4): Humanity across the waves: Exploring the interplay between the Law of the Sea and Human Rights Law*

<https://ascomare.com/ylos-volume-4/>

## **Background and scope**

The ‘Associazione di Consulenza in Diritto del Mare’ (ASCOMARE) is a law of the sea think-tank established in 2018 to conduct research and provide technical assistance on law of the sea matters to public and private entities. The main goal of ASCOMARE is to promote the study of the law of the sea and facilitate its uniform interpretation and application across maritime regions and States, in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal 14c. ASCOMARE is a founding member of the Consortium for the Study of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy (CONSMAR), and since 2021, it serves as Secretariat and depository for the Yearbook on the Law of the Sea (YLoS) publication series.

ASCOMARE is pleased to launch its call for abstracts for **Volume 4** of the YLoS titled **‘Humanity Across the Waves: Exploring the Interplay Between the Law of the Sea and Human Rights Law.’**

The law of the sea, primarily codified in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), lays down the legal framework for the use and management of the world's oceans and seas. Human rights law, on the other hand, encompasses a range of legal principles, rules, and standards aimed at protecting the inherent dignity and rights of individuals.

Interest in academic research and public debate regarding the protection of human rights within the regulatory scope of the law of the sea and UNCLOS has been growing. However, much of the existing work on international human rights at sea (IHRS) has mainly centered around the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals operating at sea. This focus, while important, only partially captures the complexity of the interplay between the international law of the sea and human rights law. This relationship extends beyond individual rights to encompass how the use of maritime spaces and resources can impact human rights obligations, considerations, and legal instruments, both in times of peace and conflict.

The book will delve into the intricate relationship between the law of the sea and the protection of human rights. It will analyse how the law of the sea shapes the interpretation and application of human rights legal instruments and obligations, including those that embody peremptory rules of international law. Within this framework, the volume will examine how maritime spaces and resources are utilised by both States and non-State actors to either uphold human rights law or to perpetrate, facilitate, or prevent serious human rights violations of international concern, such as

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crimes against humanity, genocide, human trafficking, and ecocide. Acknowledging that the law of the sea applies even during wartime, as long as it does not conflict with the law of armed conflict, this book encourages contributions that further explore the interaction between the law of the sea and international humanitarian law in conflict zones.

In light of the foregoing, ASCOMARE welcomes submissions on the interplay between the law of the sea and human rights law, including the following topics:

- Human rights in occupied or disputed maritime waters.
- Human rights considerations in the decision-making process of multilateral agreements of maritime importance.
- Access to maritime spaces and resources and self-determination.
- Considerations of humanity at sea reflected in constitutional instruments of States and international organizations.
- Extraterritorial jurisdiction of the flag State under human rights law.
- Human rights implications of *uti possidetis* or intangibility of frontiers principles at sea.
- Access to port by vessels providing military assistance to States breaching human rights law, in particular in the context of the UN Arms Trade Treaty and Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP.
- Challenges and responses to the tensions between State sovereignty and human rights of individuals in an era of large scale unauthorised maritime migration routes.
- The role of civil society and maritime related organizations in promoting compliance with human rights law.
- The maritime jurisdictional scope of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- Compulsory settlement of disputes mechanism under UNCLOS and human rights.
- Violations of human rights by non-State/private actors at sea.
- Protection of human rights of non-State/private actors at sea.
- UNCLOS and human rights violations.
- Protection of fundamental rights of seafarers on board merchant and fishing vessels.

The above list is not exhaustive and other subjects in this context, including horizontal matters, may be explored by the authors. Preference will be given to articles focusing on challenges,

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including ethical ones, and opportunities of the use of new technology in maritime security with an eye to the law of the sea's implementation and development.

**Submission Guidelines and application process**

Authors are invited to submit their abstracts using this [Form](#), by **31 August 2024**. Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously.

*Abstracts*

A concise description of the purpose, methods, and implications of your intended paper. This will be used to evaluate and place your work in the appropriate session of the Yearbook:

- The abstract should be no less than 150 words but no more than 300 words.
- Do not include citations in the abstract. Avoid mentioning other works, but if you must, mention so the abstract can be read without the need to consult a reference list. E.g. "Ludwig Wittgenstein's 'Philosophical Investigations'."
- Avoid acronyms, but if you must use them, spell out in full. E.g. "CGRN (Common Ground Research Networks)."
- Only one abstract per author(s) will be considered.
- Submissions in both **English** and **Italian** are welcome.

In the application form please include name, affiliation and email address of the author(s).

All submissions will be reviewed by the Editorial Board, formed by members of the ASCOMARE's legal team and external experts. Please use the link below for applications.

For more information on the application process please feel free to contact Ms Chiara Pavesi at [ylos@ascomare.com](mailto:ylos@ascomare.com) or send a message to [info@ascomare.com](mailto:info@ascomare.com)

Successful applicants will be informed by **1 October 2024**.

*Papers overview submission*

If your proposal is accepted, you will be requested to submit the full article by **1 December 2024**, earlier submissions are encouraged.

Articles should be no less than 5,000 words and no longer than 10,000 words, including footnotes. Manuscripts must be prepared according to the "Instructions for Authors" to be found [here](#).

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ASCOMARE YLoS employs the OSCOLA (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) system of citation and footnotes. The Editorial Board reserves the right to return manuscripts that are not in accordance with the manuscript format and structure' instructions.

In line with the goal of ASCOMARE to promote and facilitate a widespread and uniform understanding of the law of the sea in all the regions of the world, the YLoS will be released in a digital open-access version. Open Access allows readers, North and South, to get access to academic knowledge that is normally available behind large paywalls. Authors submitting their applications agree with this publication/open-access policy. Next to the online open-access version, a paper version of the YLoS will also be available for sale.

*Awards and prizes*

The Editorial Board may recommend one of the selected articles for the 'Aldo Leucci and Ortensio Degli Atti' award (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). The award will be conferred to the author of the most insightful contribution based on two leading criteria: use of international case-law, and legal reasoning. The winner will be announced in **May 2025**.

**Prizes:** the winner of the award will receive a written certificate, a paper version of the ASCOMARE YLoS, and Volume IV of the 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982: A Commentary' (*Virginia Commentary*), or a voucher of equivalent value.

[SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION](#)

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