

Legal Framework for Responding to Environmental Hazards in Coastal Protected Areas: A Review of Domestic and International Regulations

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “Hazard science, despite its endeavor...,” the statement “hazard science refers to the human capacity to transform knowledge into action” is conceptually vague. Please define “hazard science” more precisely and distinguish it from risk management or environmental science.

The sentence “The method employed in this research is descriptive–analytical...” lacks information on the sources used (e.g., statutes, case studies, comparative law). Please clarify the scope and selection criteria of legal documents analyzed.

The reference to “Rostaei & Rahmanian, 2017” appears twice with very similar content. Consider consolidating these into one paragraph and reducing duplication about MPAs as nurseries for pelagic species.

The statement “...the relatively mild penalties imposed on environmental violators...” is compelling but unsubstantiated. Please include examples or quantitative data comparing Iranian penalties to international benchmarks.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Today, the importance of hazard perception is increasingly recognized...” is strong but would benefit from elaborating on how hazard perception links specifically to legal frameworks in the Iranian context. Currently, this connection is underdeveloped.

The paragraph mentions multiple times that coastal zones are vulnerable to both land and sea pollutants. Consider condensing or rephrasing to reduce repetition, e.g., the dual vulnerability is stated both in the first and third sentences.

In “The formulation of criteria for selecting coastal-marine protected areas...,” the authors jump from a general principle to a very specific critique of protected areas like Miankaleh. Please insert a logical bridge or subheading for case studies.

While the ecological value of the Persian Gulf is well outlined, the legal instruments applicable to these habitats are not sufficiently elaborated. Please include specific laws or international conventions beyond the IMO Special Area designation.

The section starts strong but mixes institutional and legal issues. Consider separating the legal critique (e.g., limitations of Iranian sectoral laws) from management issues (e.g., lack of coordination), to enhance clarity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.