The Territoriality in Gulf of Oman and Calculation of Marine Territories

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1. Introduction
Seas and oceans comprise over 70 percent of the planet earth always taken into attention in the history. However, the most important official and legal actions to regularize a number of claims made by coastal countries regarding the demand of the territorial and marine control and exclusive ownership date the 20th century. The first conference on marine international law was held in Hague in 1930. The last convention on marine international law is the convention of marine law in 1982 applied by joining a significant number of countries. The subsequent and influenced coastal countries from such international conferences and conventions decided to approve the marine areas regulations, and define and confine the marine borders and continental shelf, etc. Between the aqueous area of the south of Iran, territoriality, definition and confinement of the marine borders and continental shelf in Persian Gulf have been noted more than Gulf of Oman, and even there is lack of research on territoriality in Gulf of Oman. Gulf of Oman has a significant strategic importance for our country due to its direct connection with the open water and Indian Ocean, and being out of the Strait of Hormuz. In this regard, the ports at the coast of Gulf of Oman can play an important commercial and transit role for the east of the country, national economy and even the neighboring landlocked countries.

2. Methodology
Through descriptive-analytical methods and by using legal documents submitted to the United Nations, this paper tries to examine territoriality in Gulf of Oman and draw the map by ARCGIS software. This study seeks to review the regulations of marine areas, the territoriality process of the coastal countries in Gulf of Oman, depicting the defined and confined borders on the map and using the middle line method in the non-demarcated areas by the descriptive analytic approach and using the marine documents and regulations and cartographical analysis and depicts the
marine territories of the coastal countries in Gulf of Oman, and calculates different marine areas in each of four coastal countries.

3. Result and discussion

The sea has always had a significant importance due to its resources and benefits, and its importance is getting more prominent by recognizing and technological developments that has made the utilization of the seabed resources possible. The sea has military, geopolitical and strategic importance and Mahan, in his geopolitical theory, introduces the sea and strong marine forces as the source of power. Today assessors in the national powers of the countries consider the accessibility to the seas as one of the sources of powers for countries. The significance of the seas and the conflicts of countries benefits in the seas gradually guided them to regularize the ownership claims and territoriality in the seas. Hence, a number of conferences and conventions were held regarding the seas rights and various regulations were legislated, the last of which is the seas law convention in 1982. In Iran, territoriality in Persian Gulf has been more noteworthy than any other place, so that we can say the territoriality in Gulf of Oman is influenced by the territoriality in Persian Gulf, so that there is lack of research in this area. Iran, Oman, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates are four coastal countries around Gulf of Oman. This paper aims to review the process of coastal countries territoriality in Gulf of Oman. In papers and books published so far, attention has been taken to Persian Gulf, especially to the legal status of Iran to Persian Gulf. Hence, little studies have been done on the process of territoriality in Gulf of Oman and defining it on the map. This paper tries to cover this issue. The process of coastal countries territoriality in Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf dates legally and officially from the codification viewpoint to the years after holding the first conference on seas rights in Hague in 1930, so that the first law on the delimitation of coastal waters and supervision area determined in 1934.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>UNCLOS Ratification Date</th>
<th>Does the legislation provide for straight baselines</th>
<th>Territorial Sea</th>
<th>Contiguous Zone</th>
<th>Exclusive Economic Zone</th>
<th>Continental Shelf,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>17/08/1989</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12nm</td>
<td>24nm</td>
<td>DLM</td>
<td>DLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>26/02/1997</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12nm</td>
<td>24nm</td>
<td>200nm</td>
<td>CM/200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>200nm</td>
<td>In Persian Gulf: Yes In Gulf of Oman: No</td>
<td>12nm</td>
<td>24nm</td>
<td>200nm</td>
<td>CM/200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CM: Continental Margin. Outer edge of the continental margin, or to 200 nautical miles where the outer edge does not extend up to that distance.

DLM: Delimitation. The symbol DLM is used when national legislation establishes the limits of a given zone by reference to the delimitation of maritime boundaries with adjacent or opposite States (or to a median (equidistant) line in the absence of a maritime boundary delimitation agreement).

Sources:
- Table of Claims to Maritime jurisdiction (as at 15 July 2011)
- Table recapitulating the status of the Convention and of the related Agreements, as at 10 October 2014
4. Conclusion

The results of cartographical and computational analysis show that in Gulf of Oman, the whole boundaries of which are among the exclusive - economic areas, Iran and Oman having the most marine territories and Pakistan having the least coastal areas, have the minimum share of marine territories in Gulf of Oman. The results also indicate that the process of territoriability and border confinement in Gulf of Oman have been a slow process, so that only segments were defined and confined out of 14 marine border segments and the continental shelf. Therefore, we can say that the slow process and lack of enough attention by coastal countries towards delimitation in Gulf of Oman is influenced by some of the geographical and economic factors and of course by the process of Persian Gulf territoriality.

Keywords: Gulf of Oman, marine border, seas political geography, territoriability, marine territories, base line

References

