

Mexico as a digital maritime nation

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Data is legal infrastructure

Data supports decisions, produces evidence and shapes compliance. I propose turning Mexico's maritime condition into digital capacity through rules, institutions and coordinated action. The State provides legal and institutional capacities; the Nation helps sustain them through a shared identity and purpose. Maritime State and Maritime Nation are doctrinal categories that confer no new legal powers.

Five questions to choose the right instrument

For a digital operation, we must ask who may decide, whether data remains authentic and intact, how to reconstruct and challenge the event, who is accountable, and who retains or transfers documentary control. An established gap guides the solution: reform, contract, protocol, coordination or better institutional implementation. Each instrument has its own scope; a contract cannot impose general obligations on third parties.

Interoperability with evidence and rights

Public ship formalities, foreign trade, logistics coordination and transport documents retain distinct legal effects. Interoperability requires a legal basis, purpose and identified responsibilities. I propose a digital maritime evidence protocol that preserves native records, metadata and history and allows adversarial examination. Data protection, correction mechanisms and participation by small operators must form part of the design.

Reform and operational continuity

I propose amending Article 262 of Mexico's Maritime Navigation and Commerce Law to complete the electronic bill of lading's lifecycle: issuance, transfer, presentation and delivery, with uniqueness and verifiable control. I also propose modernising the Ports Law and its regulations to cover data, continuity, environmental traceability and performance. Logistical sovereignty requires audit rights, backups, portability and migration. Cybersecurity must cover information systems and operational equipment; AI and autonomous navigation require attributable roles, oversight and human intervention.

Institutions that sustain capacity

The agenda proposes maritime-port and ocean information systems with distinct scopes; interministerial coordination; a technical-academic observatory; maritime legal culture; and resources tied to results. The horizons for operation, harmonisation and consolidation overlap: they do not constitute an approved legislative timetable. We can begin with a defined operation, a legal deliverable, a responsible party and verifiable evaluation. These are the author's proposals, with no commitments attributed to the Commission.

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