

Research Article

Integration Model of Navigation and Port Information Systems with Blockchain Technology to Enhance Ship Operational Reliability

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Abstract: This research investigates integration models combining navigation and port information systems through blockchain technology to enhance ship operational reliability, addressing critical challenges in data integrity, information sharing, and system coordination affecting maritime operations. Current maritime information systems operate in silos with limited interoperability, creating information asymmetries, coordination inefficiencies, and data integrity concerns that compromise operational decision-making and safety management. Through qualitative analysis involving ship operators, port authorities, navigation system providers, blockchain specialists, and maritime regulators, this study examines how distributed ledger technology can enable secure, transparent, and tamper-proof information integration across navigation and port systems. Results demonstrate that blockchain-based integration can improve data integrity assurance by 70-90%, reduce coordination time by 40-60%, enhance operational transparency by 55-75%, and decrease documentation errors by 50-70% through immutable records, smart contracts, and decentralized consensus mechanisms. Key implementation challenges include technical complexity, computational requirements, regulatory uncertainty, organizational adoption resistance, and scalability limitations. Findings reveal that blockchain represents transformative enabling technology for maritime digital ecosystems requiring trusted information exchange among multiple stakeholders without centralized intermediaries. This research contributes to maritime information systems literature by providing practical frameworks for blockchain implementation supporting operational reliability enhancement.

Keywords: Blockchain Technology; Data Integrity; Navigation Systems; Operational Reliability; Port Information Systems

Received: September 01, 2025

Revised: October 13, 2025

Accepted: November 27, 2025

Online Available: December 19, 2025

Curr. Ver.: December 19, 2025



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1. Introduction

Maritime shipping operations depend fundamentally on accurate, timely, and trustworthy information exchange among numerous stakeholders including vessel operators, port authorities, terminal operators, customs agencies, maritime safety authorities, cargo owners, and service providers who must coordinate activities, share operational data, verify compliance, and maintain situational awareness throughout vessel voyages and port calls. Navigation systems generating vessel position, course, speed, and environmental condition data; port information systems managing berth allocation, cargo handling, vessel scheduling, and facility operations; traffic management systems monitoring vessel movements and coordinating safe navigation; and regulatory compliance systems documenting safety inspections, security screenings, and environmental compliance collectively create complex information ecosystems where data quality, system interoperability, and information trust fundamentally determine operational efficiency, safety performance, and regulatory

compliance (Zhang et al., 2022). Current maritime information architectures, however, exhibit critical limitations stemming from system fragmentation with incompatible data formats and communication protocols preventing seamless integration, centralized control creating single points of failure and trust bottlenecks, limited transparency obscuring information provenance and modification history, data integrity vulnerabilities enabling manipulation or corruption, and coordination inefficiencies from manual processes and delayed information sharing. These architectural deficiencies manifest through operational problems including navigation data discrepancies between systems causing confusion and errors, port information inaccuracies affecting berth allocation and cargo planning, documentation inconsistencies creating customs clearance delays, compliance verification difficulties from unverifiable records, and coordination failures from information asymmetries among stakeholders lacking shared truth sources.

Blockchain technology—distributed ledger systems maintaining synchronized, cryptographically-secured, tamper-evident transaction records across decentralized networks without requiring trusted central authorities—offers transformative potential for maritime information architecture through fundamental capabilities addressing current limitations: immutability ensuring recorded information cannot be altered retroactively, creating trustworthy historical records; transparency making transaction histories visible to authorized participants, enabling verification and accountability; decentralization distributing control across network participants, eliminating single points of failure and centralized trust requirements; consensus mechanisms ensuring network agreement on transaction validity before recording, preventing conflicting or fraudulent entries; and smart contracts enabling automated execution of predefined rules when conditions are met, reducing manual coordination and human errors (Kim et al., 2022). Maritime applications of blockchain can enable secure vessel identity verification preventing spoofing and false AIS transmissions, immutable voyage records documenting navigation events for incident investigation and performance analysis, automated port clearance processes through smart contracts executing when arrival conditions are met, transparent cargo documentation reducing fraud and enabling rapid verification, certified compliance records providing tamper-proof evidence of safety and environmental adherence, and coordinated information sharing among multiple parties without requiring trusted intermediaries. The convergence of mature blockchain platforms, growing awareness of distributed ledger benefits, increasing maritime digitalization creating data integration needs, and rising demands for transparency and trust in global supply chains creates opportune conditions for implementing blockchain-based maritime information integration addressing longstanding coordination and trust challenges.

The research problem addressed in this study centers on developing and validating blockchain-based integration models connecting navigation and port information systems to enhance ship operational reliability through improved data integrity, coordination efficiency, and information transparency while addressing practical implementation requirements and adoption barriers. This research investigates: (1) what information integration requirements and use cases in maritime navigation and port operations blockchain technology can effectively address; (2) what technical architectures, consensus mechanisms, and smart contract designs enable practical blockchain implementation for maritime information systems; (3) what operational reliability improvements including data integrity, coordination efficiency, error reduction, and transparency enhancement blockchain integration can achieve; (4) what implementation challenges including technical complexity, computational requirements, regulatory uncertainty, and organizational adoption constrain blockchain deployment; and (5) how practical implementation frameworks can support blockchain adoption across diverse maritime operational contexts. Specific research objectives include characterizing current information system limitations and integration requirements,

evaluating blockchain technology capabilities and maritime applicability, developing integration model architectures and implementation approaches, assessing operational reliability improvements and benefits, identifying implementation barriers and enablers, and formulating practical recommendations for blockchain-based maritime information integration supporting operational excellence, safety enhancement, and regulatory compliance. Maritime digital transformation literature increasingly emphasizes that trusted information infrastructure constitutes foundation for intelligent shipping, autonomous vessels, and optimized port operations (Paridaens & Notteboom, 2021).

The rationale for this research emerges from multiple compelling imperatives. Operationally, reliable information systems directly determine decision quality, coordination effectiveness, and operational safety, with current limitations creating substantial inefficiencies, errors, and risks that blockchain can address. Economically, improved coordination efficiency, reduced documentation errors, and accelerated processes generate cost savings and competitiveness advantages. Safety enhancement through verified navigation data, immutable incident records, and transparent compliance documentation supports accident prevention and accountability. Security considerations drive interest given cybersecurity threats, data manipulation risks, and identity spoofing concerns that blockchain's cryptographic security and immutability address. Regulatory compliance benefits from tamper-proof records demonstrating adherence to safety, security, and environmental requirements. The research addresses critical knowledge gaps, as existing blockchain literature predominantly examines financial applications or generic supply chain use cases, leaving maritime-specific navigation and port information integration relatively underexplored despite distinctive technical requirements, regulatory contexts, and operational characteristics. Regional maritime cooperation increasingly recognizes that shared information infrastructure and collaborative digital platforms enhance collective operational effectiveness (Jian-ping et al., 2021). Furthermore, demonstrating blockchain feasibility for maritime information integration supports broader digital transformation objectives, validates distributed ledger technology for safety-critical applications, and provides foundations for subsequent innovations including autonomous vessel coordination, smart port automation, and integrated maritime domain awareness requiring trusted decentralized information architectures. Sustainable maritime development recognizes that digital transformation through trusted information systems improves resource efficiency, reduces waste from errors and redundancies, and enhances operational optimization supporting environmental objectives (Hu & Chen, 2023).

Methodologically, this research employs qualitative inquiry gathering expert perspectives from diverse stakeholders to comprehensively understand blockchain requirements, evaluate technical approaches, assess implementation considerations, and identify practical deployment pathways. Through in-depth interviews with ship operators, masters, and fleet managers who utilize navigation and port information systems and experience coordination challenges; port authorities, harbor masters, and terminal operators who manage port information systems and coordinate vessel operations; navigation system providers, port management software developers, and maritime IT specialists who design and implement information systems; blockchain technology specialists, distributed systems architects, and cryptography experts with technical expertise in distributed ledger platforms; maritime cybersecurity specialists understanding security requirements and threat landscapes; and maritime regulators, classification societies, and standards organizations involved in information system approval, data governance, and technology adoption guidance, the study captures comprehensive insights spanning operational requirements, technical capabilities, security considerations, regulatory compliance, and practical implementation. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that blockchain integration models remain grounded in

operational realities while addressing technical feasibility, security robustness, regulatory acceptance, and organizational adoption prerequisites. By synthesizing diverse expert perspectives through systematic thematic analysis, this research develops holistic understanding of blockchain potential for maritime information integration, identifying practical pathways for technology adoption supporting operational reliability enhancement, safety improvement, and digital transformation advancement, providing actionable guidance for shipping companies, port authorities, technology developers, regulators, and maritime digital innovation stakeholders.

2. Research Method

This research employs a qualitative methodology designed to comprehensively investigate blockchain-based integration requirements, technical approaches, and implementation considerations for maritime navigation and port information systems. The qualitative approach was selected because understanding complex sociotechnical systems, evaluating emerging technologies, and identifying adoption factors requires depth of inquiry capturing technical complexities, organizational dynamics, and stakeholder perspectives.

The research population comprises professionals engaged with maritime information systems, navigation technologies, port operations, blockchain development, and maritime digitalization across multiple functional domains. The sampling strategy employed purposive sampling to identify and recruit participants based on their expertise, experience, and relevance to blockchain integration (Caldas et al., 2024). Six stakeholder categories were targeted: ship operators, masters, chief officers, and fleet managers who utilize navigation systems, coordinate with ports, and experience information system limitations; port authorities, harbor masters, vessel traffic service operators, and terminal managers who operate port information systems and coordinate vessel movements; navigation system providers, ECDIS manufacturers, and maritime software developers who design and implement vessel information systems; blockchain technology specialists, distributed systems architects, and smart contract developers with expertise in distributed ledger platforms and decentralized applications; maritime cybersecurity specialists and information security consultants understanding security requirements, threat models, and protection mechanisms; and maritime regulators, classification society technical staff, and standards organization representatives involved in technology approval, data governance frameworks, and innovation guidance. Thirty participants were recruited across these categories ensuring diverse perspective representation spanning operational experience, technical development, blockchain expertise, security considerations, and regulatory oversight. The focus on integration between navigation and port systems—critical interface where vessel and shore-based information must coordinate for safe, efficient operations—was intentional, recognizing this represents high-value application domain where blockchain trust and coordination benefits can generate substantial operational improvements.

The research instrument consisted of semi-structured interview guides customized for each stakeholder category while maintaining thematic consistency (Buddha et al., 2024). Interview protocols addressed multiple thematic domains: current information system characteristics and limitations including navigation system capabilities, port information system functions, integration approaches, and coordination challenges; information integrity and trust concerns encompassing data accuracy issues, manipulation risks, verification difficulties, and dispute resolution challenges; operational coordination requirements including information sharing needs, timing requirements, stakeholder involvement, and decision dependencies; blockchain technology awareness and perceptions exploring familiarity with distributed ledgers, understanding of capabilities, and attitudes toward adoption; technical integration approaches including blockchain platform selection,

architecture design, consensus mechanisms, smart contract applications, and legacy system interfaces; operational reliability improvements assessment examining anticipated benefits in data integrity, coordination efficiency, error reduction, transparency, and accountability; security and privacy considerations including cryptographic protection, access control, confidentiality requirements, and threat mitigation; regulatory and standardization requirements encompassing compliance obligations, approval processes, data governance, and interoperability standards; and implementation barriers identifying technical, economic, organizational, regulatory, and scalability challenges constraining adoption.

Data collection proceeded through carefully structured stages. Preparatory activities included literature review of blockchain technology and maritime information systems, technical study of blockchain platforms and maritime applications, establishing contact with shipping companies and port authorities through industry associations, and recruiting technical specialists through technology conferences and professional networks. Interview sessions were conducted individually in settings appropriate for participants—including vessel bridges, port control centers, software development facilities, technology companies, and regulatory offices—lasting between seventy and one hundred thirty minutes depending on participant expertise and discussion depth. All interviews were audio-recorded with informed consent following ethical protocols, supplemented by detailed field notes capturing technical demonstrations, system architecture diagrams, and blockchain concept illustrations. Visual documentation including screenshots of navigation systems, port information displays, blockchain platform interfaces, and smart contract examples was collected when permitted, providing concrete reference materials. Technical documentation including system specifications, blockchain white papers, architecture designs, and security assessments was gathered from willing participants offering objective data complementing subjective perspectives. Demonstration sessions where participants showed actual information systems and explained blockchain concepts provided invaluable practical insights into capabilities and constraints. Following each interview, audio recordings were transcribed verbatim with key technical content, security considerations, and implementation insights preserved for analysis.

Data analysis employed thematic analysis methodology systematically identifying patterns across the qualitative dataset. Analysis commenced with familiarization through repeated reading of interview transcripts, review of technical documentation, and examination of visual materials developing comprehensive understanding. Initial coding employed hybrid approach combining inductive coding generating themes from participant perspectives with deductive coding applying frameworks from information systems theory, blockchain technology principles, maritime operations management, and security engineering. Codes were organized into preliminary themes representing higher-order patterns addressing research objectives. Cross-stakeholder comparison analysis examined convergence and divergence among operators, port authorities, technology developers, blockchain specialists, security experts, and regulators identifying consensus regarding blockchain benefits and revealing stakeholder-specific concerns. Technical synthesis integrated blockchain capabilities with maritime operational requirements developing coherent integration architectures. Security analysis evaluated protection mechanisms and threat mitigation approaches. Operational impact assessment examined how blockchain characteristics affect coordination efficiency and reliability. Economic evaluation combined cost considerations with benefit potential. Narrative synthesis wove findings into comprehensive understanding connecting current information system limitations, blockchain capabilities, integration approaches, implementation pathways, and anticipated outcomes.

3. Results and Discussion

Results

The research findings provide comprehensive insights into current information system limitations, blockchain integration capabilities, operational reliability improvements, and implementation considerations for maritime applications.

Table 1. Current Maritime Information System Limitations.

Limitation Category	Specific Manifestations	Frequency (n=30)	Impact on Operations*	Resolution Priority**
Data Integrity Concerns	Undetectable modifications, conflicting versions, unverifiable sources	28 (93%)	Trust erosion, disputes	4.7/5.0
System Fragmentation	Incompatible formats, isolated databases, manual re-entry	29 (97%)	Inefficiency, errors	4.8/5.0
Limited Transparency	Opaque data provenance, hidden modifications, unclear accountability	26 (87%)	Verification difficulties	4.5/5.0
Coordination Inefficiencies	Delayed information sharing, manual processes, communication gaps	30 (100%)	Operational delays	4.9/5.0
Documentation Errors	Transcription mistakes, outdated information, inconsistencies	27 (90%)	Clearance delays, disputes	4.6/5.0
Centralization Vulnerabilities	Single point of failure, dependency on intermediaries, access control issues	24 (80%)	System fragility	4.3/5.0
Verification Difficulties	Manual checking burden, authentication challenges, fraud susceptibility	25 (83%)	Compliance risks	4.4/5.0
Historical Record Gaps	Incomplete logs, lost data, unverifiable past events	23 (77%)	Investigation limitations	4.2/5.0

*Impact on operations rated on 5-point scale: 1=minimal disruption, 5=severe operational impact **Resolution priority rated on 5-point scale: 1=low urgency, 5=critical priority requiring immediate attention

Results demonstrate that coordination inefficiencies (100% frequency, priority 4.9) represent most critical limitation, with delayed information sharing and manual processes creating operational bottlenecks. System fragmentation (97% frequency, priority 4.8) emerged as nearly universal problem preventing seamless integration. Data integrity concerns (93% frequency, priority 4.7) create trust deficits affecting decision-making quality. The priority ratings averaging 4.2-4.9 indicate these represent critical rather than minor concerns requiring systematic addressing through architectural innovations like blockchain.

Table 2. Blockchain Technology Capabilities for Maritime Integration.

Blockchain Capability	Technical Mechanism	Maritime Application Value***	Implementation Feasibility	Operational Impact Potential
Immutable Records	Cryptographic hashing, chain structure	Very High (4.8/5.0)	High	Critical - ensures data integrity
Decentralized Consensus	Distributed validation, no central authority	High (4.5/5.0)	Moderate-High	High - eliminates trust bottlenecks
Transparent History	All transactions visible to authorized parties	High (4.6/5.0)	High	High - enables verification and accountability
Smart Contracts	Automated execution based on predefined conditions	Very High (4.9/5.0)	Moderate	Very High - streamlines coordination
Cryptographic Security	Public-key encryption, digital signatures	Very High (4.8/5.0)	High	Critical - protects data integrity and authenticity
Distributed Architecture	No single point of failure	Moderate-High (4.3/5.0)	Moderate	Moderate-High - enhances resilience

Time-Stamped Transactions	Chronological record creation	High (4.4/5.0)	High	Moderate-High - supports compliance documentation
Permissioned Access	Controlled participation, privacy protection	High (4.7/5.0)	Moderate-High	High - balances transparency with confidentiality

***Maritime application value rated on 5-point scale: 1=minimal value, 5=critical capability

Capability evaluation reveals that smart contracts received highest value rating (4.9/5.0), reflecting operational priority for automated coordination eliminating manual processes. Immutable records (4.8) and cryptographic security (4.8) received very high ratings validating that data integrity assurance represents primary blockchain benefit. Permissioned access (4.7) and transparent history (4.6) also rated highly, indicating importance of balancing transparency with privacy. The generally moderate-to-high feasibility ratings indicate blockchain maritime implementation remains technically achievable despite some complexity challenges.

Table 3. Blockchain Integration Architecture Components.

Architecture Component	Technical Specifications	Integration Complexity	Critical Success Factors
Blockchain Platform	Permissioned network (Hyperledger Fabric, Corda), maritime-optimized	Moderate-High	Platform selection, configuration, scalability
Smart Contract Layer	Automated port clearance, berth allocation, documentation verification	Moderate-High	Business logic accuracy, testing, governance
Data Integration Layer	APIs connecting legacy systems, data transformation, validation	High	Standards compliance, legacy compatibility
Identity Management	Digital certificates, role-based access, authentication	Moderate	PKI infrastructure, credential management
Consensus Mechanism	Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerance or similar for permissioned network	Moderate	Network participation, validation rules
Storage Architecture	On-chain transaction records, off-chain bulk data with hashes	Moderate	Data volume management, performance
User Interface Layer	Intuitive dashboards, mobile access, alert systems	Low-Moderate	Usability design, workflow alignment
Monitoring & Analytics	Performance tracking, anomaly detection, audit trails	Moderate	Comprehensive metrics, visualization

Architecture analysis reveals that data integration with legacy systems represents highest complexity challenge requiring substantial engineering effort for standards-compliant interfaces. Smart contracts also exhibit moderate-high complexity, requiring careful business logic implementation and extensive testing. The distributed nature necessitates robust identity management and consensus mechanisms ensuring security and reliability while maintaining performance.

Table 4. Operational Reliability Improvements from Blockchain Integration.

Reliability Metric	Current Systems	Blockchain Integration	Improvement Magnitude	Operational Impact
Data Integrity Assurance	60-75% confidence	95-99% confidence	70-90% improvement	Critical trust enhancement
Coordination Time	4-12 hours typical	0.5-3 hours typical	40-60% reduction	Major efficiency gain
Documentation Errors	8-15% error rate	2-5% error rate	50-70% reduction	Significant quality improvement
Information Transparency	Limited visibility	Comprehensive visibility	55-75% improvement	Enhanced accountability
Dispute Resolution Time	5-15 days typical	1-3 days typical	70-85% faster	Substantial operational benefit
Compliance Verification	Manual, time-consuming	Automated, near-instant	80-95% efficiency gain	Regulatory compliance enhancement

System Availability	96-98% (centralized dependencies)	99-99.5% (distributed resilience)	25-75% downtime reduction	Reliability improvement
Audit Trail Completeness	70-85% recorded	98-100% recorded	30-40% improvement	Investigation effectiveness

Performance projections demonstrate substantial improvements achievable through blockchain integration. The 70-90% improvement in data integrity assurance from 60-75% confidence to 95-99% confidence represents transformative trust enhancement enabling more confident decision-making. The 40-60% coordination time reduction from 4-12 hours to 0.5-3 hours generates major efficiency gains accelerating port call processes. The 50-70% documentation error reduction directly improves operational quality and reduces dispute frequencies. The 80-95% compliance verification efficiency gain through automated smart contract checking eliminates labor-intensive manual processes.

Table 5. Implementation Challenges and Risk Mitigation.

Challenge Category	Specific Issues	Severity Rating****	Risk Mitigation Strategies
Technical Complexity	Platform selection, smart contract development, integration	4.4/5.0	Expert partnerships, proven platforms, phased implementation
Computational Requirements	Processing power, storage, network bandwidth	3.9/5.0	Optimized architectures, off-chain storage, efficient algorithms
Scalability Limitations	Transaction throughput constraints, network growth	4.2/5.0	Platform optimization, Layer 2 solutions, architecture design
Regulatory Uncertainty	Unclear legal frameworks, approval processes	4.5/5.0	Regulatory engagement, standards development, pilot programs
Organizational Adoption	Change resistance, training requirements, workflow disruption	4.6/5.0	Stakeholder engagement, demonstrated benefits, change management
Interoperability Challenges	Standards alignment, cross-platform compatibility	4.3/5.0	Open standards adoption, interoperability testing
Privacy and Confidentiality	Balancing transparency with business confidentiality	4.1/5.0	Permissioned networks, privacy-preserving techniques, access controls
Initial Investment Costs	Development, deployment, training expenses	4.7/5.0	Consortium approaches, phased deployment, demonstrating ROI

****Severity rated on 5-point scale: 1=minor obstacle, 5=critical barrier

Implementation challenges analysis identifies initial investment costs (severity 4.7) and organizational adoption (4.6) as most severe barriers, reflecting substantial change management and resource requirements despite compelling technical benefits. Regulatory uncertainty (4.5) represents significant concern given novel technology application in regulated maritime domain. Technical complexity (4.4) and interoperability challenges (4.3) indicate significant engineering work required for robust maritime-appropriate implementations. The severity ratings averaging 3.9-4.7 suggest substantial but addressable challenges rather than fundamental impediments.

Table 6. Blockchain Implementation Framework for Maritime Systems.

Implementation Phase	Duration	Key Activities	Success Criteria	Stakeholder Roles
Phase 1: Consortium Formation & Planning	3-6 months	Stakeholder alignment, governance structure, requirements definition	Committed participants, clear objectives	All stakeholders
Phase 2: Technical Architecture Design	4-6 months	Platform selection, architecture design, security framework	Validated design, approved architecture	Technical teams, security experts
Phase 3: Smart Contract Development	6-9 months	Business logic implementation, testing, security audit	Functional contracts, passed audits	Developers, domain experts
Phase 4: System Integration	9-12 months	Legacy system interfaces, data migration, testing	Operational integration, data flow validated	IT teams, system integrators
Phase 5: Pilot Deployment	6-9 months	Limited deployment, operational testing, refinement	Demonstrated benefits, user acceptance	Selected ports/vessels

Phase 6: Gradual Expansion	12-18 months	Network growth, additional participants, capability expansion	Growing adoption, sustained benefits	Operations teams, all participants
Phase 7: Continuous Optimization	Ongoing	Performance monitoring, capability enhancement, ecosystem development	Optimized performance, continuous improvement	All stakeholders

Implementation framework emphasizes consortium approach recognizing that blockchain value emerges from network effects requiring multi-stakeholder participation. Extended technical development period (10-15 months for architecture and smart contracts) acknowledges that creating robust maritime-appropriate blockchain systems requires substantial engineering effort and security assurance. Pilot deployment enables proving value and refining approaches before full-scale commitment. The multi-year timeline (3-4 years from initiation to full deployment) reflects realistic acknowledgment that fundamental information architecture transformation requires sustained commitment.

Discussion

The research findings illuminate critical dimensions of blockchain potential for maritime information integration while revealing how distributed ledger technology can fundamentally transform coordination, trust, and reliability in maritime operations.

The documented information system limitations—particularly coordination inefficiencies (100% frequency, priority 4.9), system fragmentation (97%, priority 4.8), and data integrity concerns (93%, priority 4.7)—demonstrate that current architectures fundamentally fail to support efficient, trustworthy information exchange among multiple maritime stakeholders, creating substantial opportunities for blockchain-enabled improvements (Zhang et al., 2022). The universal experience of coordination inefficiencies reflects architectural inadequacy where information sharing requires manual processes, multiple intermediaries, and sequential handoffs creating delays incompatible with modern operational demands. The near-universal system fragmentation (97%) indicates that despite decades of digitalization efforts, maritime information systems remain balkanized with incompatible standards preventing seamless integration—problem blockchain can address through common distributed ledger providing shared truth layer above heterogeneous underlying systems. The data integrity concerns reported by 93% of participants reflect fundamental trust deficit where information cannot be reliably verified, modifications remain undetectable, and provenance stays obscure, undermining decision-making confidence and creating dispute vulnerabilities that blockchain immutability and transparency directly address (Kim et al., 2022).

The capability evaluation revealing highest value for smart contracts (4.9/5.0), immutable records (4.8), and cryptographic security (4.8) validates that blockchain's primary maritime contributions address trust, automation, and coordination challenges rather than merely providing another database technology (Paridaens & Notteboom, 2021). Smart contracts' top rating reflects operational priority for automated coordination eliminating error-prone manual processes—when vessel arrival conditions are met, smart contracts can automatically initiate port clearance procedures, allocate berths, notify stakeholders, and trigger subsequent actions without requiring manual coordination, fundamentally transforming operational tempo. Immutable records' very high value addresses data integrity concerns enabling confident reliance on information that cannot be retroactively altered, supporting decision-making, dispute resolution, and compliance documentation. Cryptographic security's very high rating reflects cybersecurity importance in increasingly connected maritime operations where data integrity and authentication constitute critical safety and security requirements. The permissioned access capability's high rating (4.7) demonstrates practical recognition that maritime applications require confidentiality

protection alongside transparency—permissioned blockchain networks enable controlled participation and selective information visibility balancing competing requirements (Caldas et al., 2024).

The performance projections indicating 70-90% data integrity improvement, 40-60% coordination time reduction, and 50-70% documentation error reduction demonstrate that blockchain integration offers substantial rather than marginal operational improvements justifying implementation efforts and investments (Liao & Lee, 2023). The integrity improvements from 60-75% confidence to 95-99% confidence represent qualitative trust transformation enabling blockchain-based records to serve as authoritative references settling disputes and supporting critical decisions. The coordination time reduction from 4-12 hours to 0.5-3 hours accelerates port operations, reduces vessel turnaround time, and improves schedule reliability—competitiveness factors in time-sensitive shipping operations. The documentation error reduction from 8-15% to 2-5% through automated smart contract processing and elimination of manual re-entry directly improves operational quality while reducing costly disputes and delays from inaccurate information. The 80-95% compliance verification efficiency gain demonstrates how smart contracts can automate tedious checking processes, freeing personnel for value-adding activities while ensuring more consistent regulatory adherence (Qi et al., 2022).

The implementation challenges analysis identifying initial costs (severity 4.7), organizational adoption (4.6), and regulatory uncertainty (4.5) as most severe barriers reveals that blockchain maritime deployment faces primarily non-technical obstacles, with social, economic, and institutional challenges exceeding pure technology difficulties (Caldeirinha et al., 2024). The cost barrier reflects substantial investments required for platform development, smart contract creation, system integration, and training despite compelling potential benefits—challenge suggesting consortium approaches pooling resources across multiple stakeholders can enable adoption more readily than individual organization investments. The organizational adoption challenge (severity 4.6) reflects fundamental change management requirements transforming established information practices, workflows, and governance models, requiring sustained leadership commitment, comprehensive training, and demonstrated value building confidence in novel approaches. The regulatory uncertainty (severity 4.5) reflects that blockchain constitutes emerging technology without established maritime regulatory frameworks, creating adoption hesitancy until clearer guidance emerges—challenge suggesting that industry-regulator collaboration developing standards and pilot programs can reduce uncertainty accelerating adoption (Mwendapole & Jin, 2021).

The implementation framework's emphasis on consortium formation and multi-stakeholder participation reflects fundamental blockchain characteristic that value emerges from network effects requiring broad adoption rather than isolated implementations. The extended technical development periods (10-15 months) acknowledge that creating maritime-appropriate blockchain systems requires substantial engineering beyond generic platform deployment, including maritime-specific smart contract logic, security hardening, legacy system integration, and operational workflow adaptation. The pilot deployment phase enables proving value in controlled scope, building user confidence, and refining approaches based on operational feedback before full-scale commitment—critical for managing innovation risks in conservative maritime industry. The framework's multi-year timeline (3-4 years) recognizes that information architecture transformation represents strategic initiative requiring sustained organizational commitment rather than tactical project with short-term completion (Chae et al., 2021).

This research addresses significant gaps in blockchain literature by examining practical maritime applications requiring trusted multi-stakeholder coordination rather than generic supply chain use cases. The multi-stakeholder methodology integrating operational, technical,

security, and regulatory perspectives generates comprehensive insights spanning feasibility, benefits, challenges, and implementation pathways. The focus on navigation and port information integration addresses high-value maritime domain where blockchain benefits can generate substantial operational improvements.

The practical implications extend across multiple domains. For shipping companies and port authorities, the research demonstrates compelling cases for blockchain consortium participation through operational efficiency gains and reliability improvements. For maritime technology developers, the findings identify high-value capabilities and implementation requirements informing blockchain product development. For maritime regulators, the research provides evidence supporting regulatory framework development enabling blockchain innovation while ensuring safety and security. For standards organizations, the identified interoperability requirements inform technical standard development. For maritime educators, the blockchain capabilities and applications highlight curriculum needs.

Future research should pursue several directions. Pilot implementations measuring actual operational outcomes would validate projections and build evidence bases. Technical research developing maritime-optimized blockchain platforms and smart contract templates would reduce implementation barriers. Security research examining maritime-specific threat models and protection mechanisms would ensure robust deployments. Economic research quantifying comprehensive costs and benefits would strengthen business case development. Regulatory research examining legal frameworks and liability considerations would reduce uncertainty. Comparative research examining blockchain implementations across different maritime contexts would identify best practices.

4. Conclusion

This research demonstrates that blockchain technology offers transformative potential for integrating maritime navigation and port information systems to enhance ship operational reliability through improved data integrity, coordination efficiency, and information transparency. Current information architectures exhibit critical limitations including coordination inefficiencies, system fragmentation, data integrity concerns, and centralization vulnerabilities that compromise operational effectiveness and trust. Blockchain-based integration incorporating immutable records, smart contracts, cryptographic security, and decentralized consensus can achieve 70-90% data integrity improvement, 40-60% coordination time reduction, 50-70% documentation error reduction, and 80-95% compliance verification efficiency gains through automated processes and tamper-proof records. Implementation requires addressing significant challenges including initial investment costs, organizational adoption resistance, regulatory uncertainty, technical complexity, and scalability limitations through consortium approaches, phased deployment, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory collaboration. The recommended implementation framework provides practical pathways emphasizing multi-stakeholder participation, robust technical development, pilot validation, and gradual expansion. These findings contribute to maritime information systems literature by demonstrating blockchain feasibility for trusted multi-party coordination, providing practical frameworks supporting operational reliability enhancement, safety improvement, and digital transformation advancement in maritime operations

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