

Sovereign immunity generally protects governments from being sued without their consent, including in admiralty and maritime law. However, this protection is often waived through specific legislation, such as the Suits in Admiralty Act (SIAA). The SIAA allows suits against the United States for claims related to damage caused by government-owned vessels.

The doctrine of sovereign immunity, rooted in international law, shields states from being sued in another state's courts. This immunity also applies to the U.S. government in admiralty and maritime cases.

Waiver of Immunity:

While sovereign immunity exists, it's not absolute. The U.S. government can waive its immunity, allowing lawsuits to proceed. This can happen explicitly, as in the SIAA, or implicitly, such as when the government initiates a lawsuit against another party in a maritime matter.

Suits in Admiralty Act (SIAA):

The SIAA is a key piece of legislation that specifically waives sovereign immunity for claims arising from the operation of government-owned vessels. It allows individuals to sue the U.S. government for damages caused by those vessels