International Boundary Study

SERIES A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

Straight Baselines

THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 33

STRAIGHT BASELINES: THE PHILIPPINES

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Directorate for Functional Research
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

STRAIGHT BASELINES: THE PHILIPPINES

On June 17, 1961 the Government of the Philippines approved Republic Act No. 3046, "An Act to Define the Baselines of the Territorial Sea of the Philippines." The preamble stated:

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE BASELINES OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF THE PHILIPPINES

Whereas, the Constitution of the Philippines describes the national territory as comprising all the territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris concluded between the United States and Spain on December 10, 1898, the limits of which are set forth in Article III of said treaty together with all the islands embraced in the treaty concluded at Washington, between the United States and Spain on November 7, 1900, and in the treaty concluded between the United States and Great Britain on January 2, 1930, and all the territory over which the Government of the Philippine Islands exercised jurisdiction at the time of the adoption of the Constitution.

Whereas, all the waters within the limits set forth in the above-mentioned treaties have always been regarded as part of the territory of the Philippine Islands;

Whereas, all the waters around, between and connecting the various islands of the Philippine archipelago, irrespective of their width or dimension, have always been considered as necessary appurtenances of the land territory, forming part of the island or internal waters of the Philippines;

Whereas, all waters beyond the outermost islands of the archipelago but within the limits of the boundaries set forth in the aforementioned treaties comprise the territorial sea of the Philippines;

Whereas, the baselines from which the territorial sea of the Philippines is determined consist of straight lines joining appropriate points of the outermost islands of the archipelago; and

Whereas, the said baselines should be clarified and specifically defined and described for the information of all concerned; Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assemblage.

Sec. 1. The baselines for the territorial sea of the Philippines are hereby defined and described specifically as follows:
Sections 2 and 3 read as follows:

Sec. 2. All waters within the baselines provided for in Section one hereof are considered inland or internal waters of the Philippines.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 17, 1961. It was later discovered that certain typographical errors existed in the discription and the Section 1 of the Act was amended to read as follows:

S. No. 954

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

AN ACT
TO AMEND SECTION ONE OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO DEFINE THE BASELINES OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF THE PHILIPPINES".

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. To correct typographical errors, Section one of Republic Act numbered thirty hundred and forty-six is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. The baselines for the territorial sea of the Philippines are hereby defined and described specifically as follows:

	N. Latitude	**E. Longitude**	**Asimuth**	**Distance (in meters)**
Y'AMI [Yami] Island (E)....	21°07'03"	121°57'24"		
Line 1 (Y'AMI [(Yami] I. (E.)- Tumaruk RK.)			353°27'	71,656
			[70°34'	212,700]
Tumaruk RK.....	20°28'28"	122°02'06"		
Line 2 (Tumaruk RK.	[20°28'03"	120°02'03"]		
-Balintang Is.)			347°13'	58,105
			[283°46'	228,860]
Balintang Islands.....	19°57'45"	122°09'28"		
Line 3 (Balintang Is.-Didicas Rk.)			357°05'	97,755
Didicas Rk.....	19°04'50"	122°12'18"		
Line 4 (Didicas Rk.- Iligan Pt.)			350°39'	86,155
Iligan Pt.....	18°18'45"	122°20'15"		
Line 5 (Iligan Pt.- Ditolong Pt.)			351°23'	136,030

	N. Latitude	E. Longitude	Asimuth	Distance (in meters)
Ditolong Pt.....	17°05'50"	22°31'44"		
Line 6 (Ditolong Pt.- Diviuisa Pt.)			16°56'	34,378 [34,380]
Diviuisa Pt.....	16°48'00"	122°26'06"		
Line 7 (Diviuisa Pt. – Dijohan Pt.)			21°01'	57,781 [57,780]
Dijohan Pt.....	16°18'45"	122°14'28"		
Line 7a (Dijohan Pt. – Bulubalik Pt.)			10°52' [42°37'	142,360 39,615]
Bulubalik Pt.	15°02'56"	121°59'30"		
Line 8 (Bulubalik Pt. - Tinaga I.)			300°15' [10°52'	120,986 142,360]
Tinaga I.	14°29'45"	122°57'40"		
Line 9 (Tinaga I.- Horadaba Rks.)			286°27'	148,690
Horadaba Rks.	14°06'41"	124°16'54"		
Line 10 (Horadaba Rks. – Matulin Rk.)			306°34'	1,083
Matulin Rk.	14°06'20"	124°17'23"		
Line 11 (Matulin Rk. – Atalaya Pt.)			331°46'	178,480
Atalaya Pt.	12°40'59"	125°04'02"		
Line 11a (Atalaya Pt. – Finch Rk.)			313°30'	22,268 [22,270]
Finch Rk.	12°32'40"	125°12'57"		
Line 12 (Finch Rk. [)] - SE [SB] of Manjud Pt.)			313º56'	12,665
SE Manjud Pt.	12°27'54"	125°17'59"		
Line 12a (SE of Manjud Pt. - Sora Cay)			322°27'	14,225
Sora Cay.....	12°21'47"	125°22'46"		
Line 13 (Sora Cay - Bunga Pt.)			321°03'	22,793 22,795]
Bunga Pt.	12°12'10"	125°30'40"		
Line 13a (Bunga Pt. - Tubabao I.)			331°50'	12,686 [12,685]
Tubabao I.....	12°06'06"	125°33'58"		
Line 14 (Tubabao I. - Tugnug Pt.)			355°22'	83,235
Tugnug Pt.	11°21'06"	125°37'40"		
Line 15 (Tugnug Pt. - Suluan I.)			331°03'	75,326 [75,325]

	N. Latitude	E. Longitude	Asimuth	Distance (in meters)
Suluan Island	10°45'20"	125°57'40"		
Line 16 (Suluan I. - Tuason Pt.)			347°51'	107,070
Tuason Pt.	9°48'33"	126°10'00"		
Line 17 (Tuason Pt. - Cauit Pt.)			355°25'	55,415
Cauit Pt.	9°18'35"	126°2'25"		
Line 18 (Cauit Pt. Arangasa Is.)			342°44'	49,703 [49,705]
Arangasa Is.....	8°52'50"	126°20'28"		
Line 19 (Arangasa Is. - Quinablangan I.)			348°40'	131,330
Quinablangan I.	7°42'58"	126°34'30"		
Line 19a (Quinablangan I-Above Languyan R.)			353°08'	25,619 [25,620]
Above Languyan R.	7°29'10"	126°36'10"		
Line 20 (Above Languyan R. - Pusan Pt.)			356°52'	22,489 [22,490]
Pusan Pt.	7°16'59"	126°36'50"		
Line 21 (Pusan Pt. - Tugubun Pt.)			26°39'	36,259 [36,260]
Tugubun Pt.	6°59'24"	126°28'00"		
Line 22 (Tugubun Pt. - Cape S. Agustin (N)			20°33'	83,350
Cape San Agustin (N)	6°17'03"	126°12'08"		
Line 22a (Cape S. Agustin (N) - Cape San Agustin (S)			20°16'	1,707
Cape San Agustin (S)	6°16'15"	126°11'40"		
Line 23 (Cape S. Agustin (S) Panguil Bato Pt.)			39°23'	125,100
Panguil Bato Pt.	5°23'45	125°28'42"		
Line 23a (Panguil Bato Pt.-Tapundo Pt.)			66°32'	7,484
Tapundo Pt.	5°22'08"	125°24'59"		
Line 24 (Tapundo Pt. - Manamil I.)			88°19'	7,667
Manamil I.....	5°22'05"	125°20'50"		
Line 24a (Manamil I-Balut I. (W)			139°01'	3,051
Balut I. (W)	5°23'20"	125°19'45"		
Line 25 (Balut I. (W) -Middle of 3 Rk. Awash			124°47'	149,840
Middle of 3 Rk. Awash.....	6°09'39"	124°13'02"		
Line 26 (Middle of 3 Rk. Awash – TONGQUIL Tonguil] I.)			86°18'	259,400

	N. Latitude	E. Longitude	Asimuth	Distance (in meters)
TONGQUIL [Tonguil] I.....	6°00'15"	121°52'45"		
Line 27 (TONGQUIL [Tonguil] I.-Sumbasumba I.)			61°29'	115,950
Sumbasumba I.....	5°30'10"	120°57'35"		
Line 28 (Sumbasumba I. Kinapusan Is.)			43°19'	44,445 [43 43°49']
Kinapusan Is.....	5°12'37"	120°41'05"		
Line 29(Kinapusan Is.- Manuk Manka I.)			63°14'	101,290
Manuk Manka I. [International Treaty Line]	4°47'50"	119°52'10"		
Line 30 (MANUK MANKA I.-FRANCES REEF)			58°30' [58°39']	80,847 [87,910]
Frances Reef	4°24'54"	119°14'54"		
Line 31 (Frances Reef-Bajapa Reef)			134°34'	29,330
Bajapa Reef	4°36'04"	119°03'36"		
Line 32 (Bajapa Reef -Panguan I.)			164°05'	13,480
Panguan I.	4°43'06"	119°01'36"		
Line 33 (Panguan I.- Omapoy I.)			238°48'	42,470
Omapoy I.	4°55'02"	119°21'15"		
Line 34 (Omapoy I. - Sanga-Sanga I.)			246º11'	51,005
Sanga-Sanga I.	5°06'12"	119°46'30"		
Line 35 (Sanga-Sanga I.- Pearl Bank)			170°05'	80,200
Pearl Bank	5°49'04"	119°39'01"		
Line 36 (Pearl Bank- Baguan I.)			103°13'	137,050
Baguan I.	6°06'00"	118°26'42"		
Line 36a (Baguan I.- Taganak I.)			76°52'	15,535
Taganak I.	6°04'05"	118°18'30"		
Line 37 (Taganak (I. - Gt. Bakkungaan			118°39'	24,805
Gt. Bakkungaan	6°10'32"	118°06'42"		
Line 37a (Gt.-Bakkungaan- SIBAUNG [Sibuang] I.)			136º04'	18,470
SIBAUNG [Sibuang] I.	6°17'45"	117°59'45"		
Line 38 (SIBAUNG [Sibuang] I. - Muligi I.)			215°36'	79,915
Muligi I.	6°53'00"	118°25'00"		
Line 39 (Muligi I.-Mangsee Is.)			119°14'	140,541 [140,549]
Mangsee Is.	7°30'10"	117°18'20"		
Line 39a (Mangsee Is.-Cape Melville)			134°50'	48,815

	N. Latitude	E. Longitude	Asimuth	Distance (in meters)
Cape Melville.....	7°48'50"	116°59'30"		
Line 40 (Cape Melville-Ligas Pt.)			153°54'	15,665
Ligas Pt.....	7°56'28"	116°55'45"		
Line 41 (Ligas Pt. - Cay)			170°40'	5,666
Cay.....	7°59'30"	116°55'15"		
Line 41a (Cay-Secam I.)			204°52'	22,925
Secam I.....	8°10'47"	117°00'30"		
Line 42 (SECAM [Section] I. N. of Canipan Bay)			209°09'	54,990
N. of Canipan Bay	8°36'50"	117°15'06"		
Line 43 (N. of Canipan Bay - Tatub Pt.)			218°57'	18,570
Tatub Pt.	8°44'40"	117°21'28"		
Line 44 (Tatub Pt. - Punta Baja)			222°04'	45,125
Punta Baja.....	9°02'50"	117°37'58"		
Line 45 (Punta Baja-Malapackun I.)			223°30'	32,195
Malapackun I.....	9°15'30"	117°50'04"		
Line 46 (Malapackun I. - PIEIRAS [Piodras] Pt.)			225°50'	148,260
PIEDRAS [Piodras] Pt. ...	10°11'28"	118°48'18"		
Line 47 (PIEDRAS [Piodras] Pt.- Tapiutan I.)			203°19'	124,900
Tapiutan I.....	11°13'40"	119°15'28"		
Line 48 (Tapiutan I.-Pinnacle Rk.)			208°47'	136,590
Pinnacle Rk.....	12°18'34"	119°51'45"		
Line 49 (Pinnacle Rk.-Cape Calavito)			200°40'	134,230
Cape Calavite.....	13°26'40"	120°18'00"		
Line 50 (Cape Calavite-Cabra I.)			148°12'	58,235
Cabra I.	13°53'30"	120°00'58"		
Line 51 (Cabra I. - Capones Is.)			179°26'	113,400
Capones Is.	14°55'00"	120°00'20"		
Line 52 (Capones Is.-PALAUIG [Palawig] Pt.)			168°9'	58,100
PALAUIG [Palawig] Pt.....	15°5'50"	119°53'40"		
Line 53 (PALAUIG [Palawig] Hermana Mayor I.)			164°17'	40,870
Hermana Mayor I.	15°47'10"	119°47'28"		
Line 53a (Hermana Mayor I.- Tambobo Pt.)			167°10'	20,490

	N. Latitude	E. Longitude	Asimuth	Distance (in meters)
Tambobo Pt.....	15°58'00"	119°44'55"		
Line 54 (Tambobo Pt.-Rena Pt.)			181°43'	22,910
Rena Pt.....	16°10'25"	119°45'18"		
Line 54a (Rena Pt.-Cap Bolinao)			191°39'	18,675
Cape Bolinao	16°20'20"	119°47'25"		
Line 55 (Cape Bolinao-Darigayos Pt.)			226°20'	80,016
			[167°01'	55,995]
Darigayos Pt	16°50'15"	120°20'00"		
Line 56 (Darigayos Pt-	[16°49'55"	119°40'20"]		
Dile Pt.)			179°58'	81,616
			[220°25'	108,160]
Dile Pt.....	17°34'30"	120°19'58"		
Line 56a (Dile Pt.-Pinget I.)			188°27'	12,060
Pinget I.	17°40'58"	120°20'58"		
Line 56b (Pinget I.-Badoc I.)			192°46'	27,170
Badoc I.....	17°55'20"	120°24'22"		
Line 57 (Badoc I.-Cape Bojeador)			195°03'	65,270
Cape Bojeador.....	18°29'30"	120°34'00"		
Line 58 (Cape Bojeador-Dalupiri I.)			222°16'	101,740
Dalupiri I.	19°10'15"	121°13'02"		
Line 59 (Dalupiri I.-Catanapan Pt.)			213°29'	25,075
Catanapan Pt.	19°21'35:	121°20'56"		
Line 60 (Catanapan Pt.		[121°13'02"]		
DEQUEY [Dequoy] I.)			202°27'	116,870
DEQUEY [Dequoy] I.....	20°20'06"	121°46'35"		
Line 61 (DEQUEY [Dequey] I. - RAILE [Raile])			180°47'	42,255
RAILE [Raile]	20°43'00"	121°46'55"		
Line 62 (RAILE [Raile] - Y'AMI [Yami] I. (W)			200°30'	48,140
Y'AMI [Yami] I. (W)	21°07'26"	121°56'39"		
Line 63 Y'AMI [Yami] I. (W) Y'AMI [Yami] I. (M)			238°40'	237
Y'AMI [Yami] I. (M)	21°07'30"	121°56'46"		
Line 64 (Y'AMI [Yami} I. (M) Y'AMI [Yami] I. (E)			307°08'	1,376
Y'AMI [Yami] I. (E).....	21°07'03"	121°57'24"		

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.

The Act was approved on May 18, 1961 as "An Act to Define the Baselines of the Territorial Sea of the Philippines."

The United States protested the Act by Embassy Note No. 836 of May 18, 1961 declaring inter alia "...the United States Government could not regard claims based on the present legislation as binding upon it or its nationals."

The Philippines, as may be seen from the preamble, considers all waters within the baselines to be internal waters and all waters between the baselines and the so-called "Treaty Limits of the Philippines," as amended, to be territorial sea. In the southwest, the two sets of lines virtually coincide in one place while in northeast the maximum distance between the two systems of lines is approximately 285 nautical miles.

The Philippines is not a party to the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea.

Analysis

The Government of the Philippines has adopted the so-called "archipelago principle" in drawing a series of 80 straight baselines about the external group. [(NOTE: 64 are numbered but an additional series are suffixed with a) and b).] The length of the system is 15,139,910 meters; i.e., 15,139.910 kilometers or 8,174.8974 nautical miles. Thus the average length of a segment is 102.185 nautical miles. The longest baseline segment is 259,400 meters or 140.05 nautical miles. The segment, No. 26, connects 3 rocks awash (6º 09' 39" N; 124º 13' 02" E.) with Tongquil Island (6º 00' 15" N; 121º 52' 45" E). The line encloses the Moro Gulf. The shortest baseline, Line 63 extends 237 meters (.1279 n.m.) from Y'ami West to Y'ami Middle in the extreme north.

The baseline system, in effect, closes the important Surigao Strait Sibutu Passage, Balabac Strait and Mindoro Strait as well as the more "internal" passages through the Philippine Islands. The largest body of water enclosed is the Sulu Sea but other significant seas, the Moro, Mindanao, Sibuyan, etc., are also within the system.

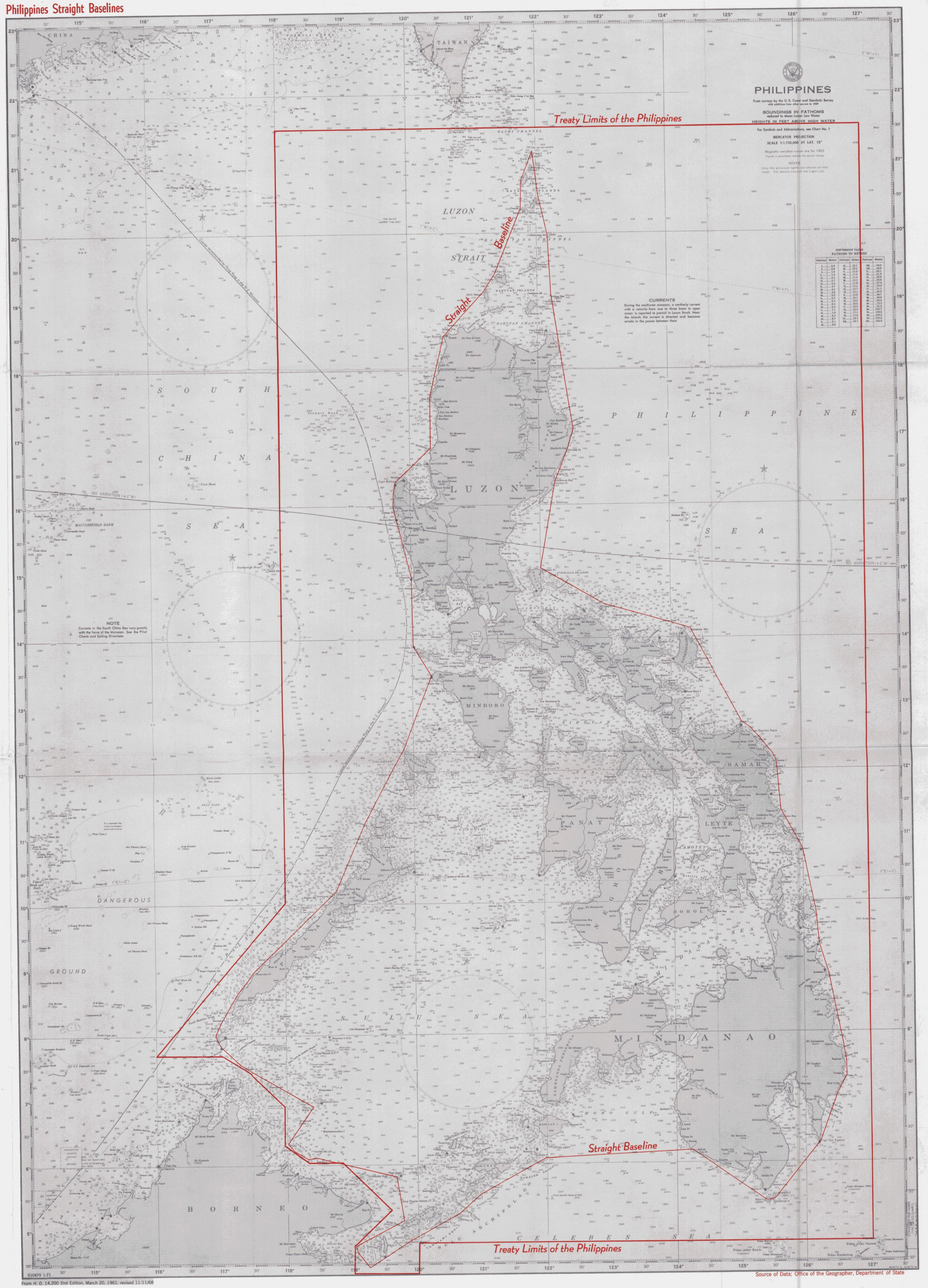
The Indonesian island of Pulau Miangas, in the extreme southeast, is contained within the Philippine territorial sea and the Indonesian Straight baselines.

While the straight baseline system connects the outermost points of the islands, and by definition, follows the "general trend", the effect of the system can be best illustrated by area figures. The approximate land area of the Philippines is 115,600 square (statute) miles or 87,278 square nautical miles. The area contained within the straight baselines measures 328,345 square miles or 247,845 square nautical miles. The enclosure system therefore increases the national "territory" approximately 2.8 fold. The resulting land

(115,600 square miles) to water (328,345 - 115,600 = 212,745 square miles) ratio is approximately 1:1,841.

The use of the treaty limits as the territorial sea boundary would raise the total Philippine area to 702,460 sq.mi. or 530,239 sq. nautical miles increasing by more than 2.14 the "territory" within the baselines. The ratio of land and internal waters to territorial sea (374,115 sq. mi.) is 1:1,139 while the land to territorial sea ratio is 1:3,236. The ratio of land to territorial and internal waters is approximately 1:5,065.

Philippines Straight Baselines



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