

United States Department of State  
*Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

# Limits in the Seas

No. 144

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

**Archipelagic and other Maritime Claims and Boundaries**



# **LIMITS IN THE SEAS**

**No. 144**

## **SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

### **ARCHIPELAGIC AND OTHER MARITIME CLAIMS AND BOUNDARIES**

**October 28, 2019**

**Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs  
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs  
U.S. Department of State**

This study is one of a series issued by the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. The purpose of the series is to examine a coastal State's maritime claims and/or boundaries and assess their consistency with international law. This study represents the views of the United States Government only on the specific matters discussed therein and does not necessarily reflect an acceptance of the limits claimed.

This study, and earlier studies in this series, may be downloaded from <https://www.state.gov/limits-in-the-seas/>. Comments and questions should be emailed to [LimitsInTheSeas@state.gov](mailto:LimitsInTheSeas@state.gov). Principal analysts for this study are from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs and the Office of the Legal Adviser.

## Introduction

This study analyzes the maritime claims and maritime boundaries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including its archipelagic baseline claim. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines *Maritime Areas Act, 1983*, Act Number 15 of 1983 (Annex 1 to this study) took effect May 19, 1983, and established a 12-nautical mile (M) territorial sea, 24-M contiguous zone, and 200-M exclusive economic zone.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the *Maritime Areas Act*, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines set forth coordinates for its archipelagic baselines and bay closing lines in 2014.<sup>2</sup> The archipelagic baselines are shown on Map 1 to this study. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' maritime boundaries are illustrated in Map 2. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS Convention) on October 1, 1993.<sup>3</sup>

## Basis for Analysis

### Archipelagic States

The LOS Convention contains certain provisions related to archipelagic States. Article 46(a) provides that an “archipelagic State” means “a State constituted wholly by one or more archipelagos and may include other islands.” An “archipelago” is defined as “a group of islands, including parts of islands, interconnecting waters and other natural features which are so closely interrelated that such islands, waters and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity, or which historically have been regarded as such” (Article 46(b)).

Only an “archipelagic State” may draw archipelagic baselines. Article 47 sets out criteria to which archipelagic States must adhere when establishing archipelagic baselines (Annex 4 to this study).

Under Article 47(1), an archipelagic State may draw straight archipelagic baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago, provided that within such baselines are included the main islands and an area in which the ratio of the area of the water to the area of the land, including atolls, is between 1 to 1 and 9 to 1. In addition, the length of any baseline segment shall not exceed 100 M except that up to 3 percent of the total number of baselines may have a length up to 125 M (Article 47(2)).

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines *Maritime Areas Act, 1983*, is available from UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), *Practice of Archipelagic States* 86–92 (1992), and at: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/VCT\\_1983\\_Act.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/VCT_1983_Act.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The table of coordinates set forth in Notice No. 60 of 2014, entitled *Archipelagic Closing Lines and Baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* and reproduced in Annex 2 to this study, is available from DOALOS, at: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/DEPOSIT/VCT\\_2014\\_147\\_Gazette.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/DEPOSIT/VCT_2014_147_Gazette.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, opened for signature Dec. 10, 1982, entered into force Nov. 16, 1994, 1833 UNTS 397, available from DOALOS, at: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm).

Additional provisions of Article 47 state that such baselines shall not depart to any appreciable extent from the general configuration of the archipelago; that such baselines shall not be drawn, with noted exceptions, using low-tide elevations; and that the system of such baselines shall not be applied in such a manner as to cut off from the high seas or exclusive economic zone (EEZ) the territorial sea of another State (Article 47(3) - 47(5)).

Article 48 provides that the breadth of the territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf shall be measured from archipelagic baselines drawn in accordance with Article 47. Article 49 provides that the waters enclosed by archipelagic baselines drawn in accordance with Article 47 are “archipelagic waters,” over which the sovereignty of an archipelagic State extends, subject to the provisions in Part IV of the LOS Convention.

The LOS Convention further reflects the specific rights and duties given to archipelagic States over their land and water territory. Article 53 allows the archipelagic State to “designate sea lanes . . . suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign ships . . . through . . . its archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial sea.” Also, Article 53(12) provides that “[i]f an archipelagic State does not designate sea lanes . . ., the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage may be exercised through the routes normally used for international navigation.”

## **Bays**

Article 10 of the LOS Convention defines a “bay” and sets forth criteria for drawing baselines that enclose the waters of a bay as internal waters. Article 10(2) provides that an indentation may not “be regarded as a bay unless its area is as large as, or larger than, that of the semi-circle whose diameter is a line drawn across the mouth of that indentation.” Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 10 provide that a bay closing line may not exceed 24 M in length.

## **Analysis<sup>4</sup>**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is an archipelagic State that forms part of the Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean. It is located north of Grenada, west of Barbados, and south of Saint Lucia. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines consists of the main island of Saint Vincent and the northern part of the island group known as the Grenadines (excluding Petite Martinique and Carriacou Island of Grenada).

## **Baselines**

Pursuant to the *Maritime Areas Act*, Notice No. 60 of 2014, entitled *Archipelagic Closing Lines and Baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, establishes an archipelagic baseline system and also sets forth bay closing lines.

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<sup>4</sup> Calculations for this analysis were conducted in Esri ArcMap 10.5.1, using the Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 20 North, projection and are based on the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) datum.

### *Archipelagic Baselines*

The archipelagic baseline system established in Notice No. 60 encloses all the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Map 1 and Annex 2 to this study). The system is composed of 33 line segments, ranging in length from 0.01 M (segment 4-5) to 40.12 M (segment 1-2), with a total length of 115 M. These segments connect points located on the outermost islands and drying reefs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.<sup>5</sup>

The archipelagic baseline system meets the water-to-land area ratio set forth in Article 47(1):

Total Area = 1,871 square kilometers  
Water Area = 1,482 square kilometers  
Land Area = 389 square kilometers<sup>6</sup>  
Water-to-land area ratio = 3.81:1

In accordance with Article 47(2) of the LOS Convention, none of the baseline segments exceed 100 M in length. Annex 3 to this study lists the lengths of each segment.

The configuration of the baselines does not appear to depart to any appreciable extent from the general configuration of the archipelago (Article 47(3)). None of the baselines appear to be drawn using low tide elevations (Article 47(4)). The baselines are not drawn in a way that would cut off from the high seas or EEZ the territorial sea of another State (Article 47(5)).

Therefore, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' archipelagic baseline system set forth pursuant to the *Maritime Areas Act* appears to be consistent with Article 47 of the LOS Convention.

### *Bay Closing Lines*

Notice No. 60 of 2014 sets forth coordinates for what are referred to as “archipelagic closing lines” that delimit the internal waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Annex 2 to this study). The Notice delimits the internal waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines using 21 closing lines that pertain to 16 bays. These closing lines, which are not depicted on Map 1 to this study, range in length from 0.04 to 1.70 M. The bay closing lines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines generally conform to Article 10 of the LOS Convention.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> It appears that the location of some points results in small areas of land lying outside of the line segments that compose the archipelagic baseline system of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>6</sup> Land area number may be found in the CIA World Factbook entry for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Bay closing-line tests were conducted utilizing Esri ArcGIS 10.5.1 and CARIS LOTS Limits and Boundaries v4.1.

## Maritime Zones

Sections 3 and 4 of the *Maritime Areas Act* provide that the archipelagic waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprise those waters enclosed by the archipelagic baselines, and that its internal waters comprise those waters landward of its “archipelagic closing lines.” Sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Act establish Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ 12-M territorial sea, 24-M contiguous zone, and 200-M EEZ, respectively. Consistent with Article 48 of the Convention, the breadths of these maritime zones are measured from the archipelagic baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Section 8 of the Act provides that the continental shelf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends 200 M from its archipelagic baselines.

## Navigation

Sections 10 to 16 of the *Maritime Areas Act* recognize certain navigational rights within the archipelagic waters and other maritime zones of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage and the right of innocent passage. With respect to archipelagic sea lanes passage, Section 12 of the Act provides that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines may designate sea lanes and air routes for use by foreign ships or aircraft, and also that it may prescribe traffic separation schemes in such sea lanes.

An archipelagic State may designate such sea lanes, and also traffic separation schemes, provided that “an archipelagic State shall refer [such] proposals to the competent international organization with a view to their adoption” (LOS Convention, Article 53, paragraphs 1 and 9). Section 15 of the Act requires sea lanes and traffic separation schemes to be proposed to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). As the competent international organization, the IMO may “adopt only such sea lanes and traffic separation schemes as may be agreed with the archipelagic State, after which the archipelagic State may designate, prescribe, or substitute them” (Article 53(9)).

As of October 2019, it appears that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had not designated sea lanes or prescribed traffic separation schemes, nor had it presented proposals to this effect to the IMO. Though not stated in the *Maritime Areas Act*, since no archipelagic sea lanes have been designated in accordance with the LOS Convention, the “right of archipelagic sea lane passage may be exercised through the routes normally used for international navigation” (Article 53(12)).

The *Maritime Areas Act* limits certain navigational rights within the maritime zones of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Most notably, Sections 10(2) and 11(2) of the *Maritime Areas Act* stipulate that a foreign warship must receive permission from the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines prior to navigating in its archipelagic waters or territorial sea. This permission requirement is not permitted by customary international law as reflected in the LOS Convention and is not recognized by the United States. Additionally, Section 11(1) of the *Maritime Areas Act* describes certain activities as “prejudicial to the peace, good order, or security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines” that differ from the Convention’s provisions pertaining to innocent passage. Article 19(2) of the LOS Convention sets forth an exhaustive list of activities that render a foreign vessel’s passage non-innocent, and any application of the *Maritime Areas Act* that hampers innocent passage except in accordance with the LOS Convention would be inconsistent with international law.

## **Contiguous Zone, EEZ, and Continental Shelf Jurisdiction**

The *Maritime Areas Act* does not explicitly describe Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' rights and jurisdiction in the contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf. However, sections 19 to 22 of the Act authorize the issuance of regulations pertaining to these maritime zones. The regulations authorized are generally consistent with the relevant provisions of the LOS Convention.

The Act does not address the rights of other States in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' maritime zones. Article 58(2) of the LOS Convention provides that "all States shall enjoy in the exclusive economic zone the high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and all other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to those freedoms." Relevant provisions of international law relating to the laying of submarine cables and pipelines on the continental shelf are found in Part VI of the Convention, in particular Article 79.

## **Maritime Boundaries**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has concluded maritime boundary agreements with Barbados (2015) and Saint Lucia (2017). These agreements, which are not in force, are shown on Map 2 to this study.

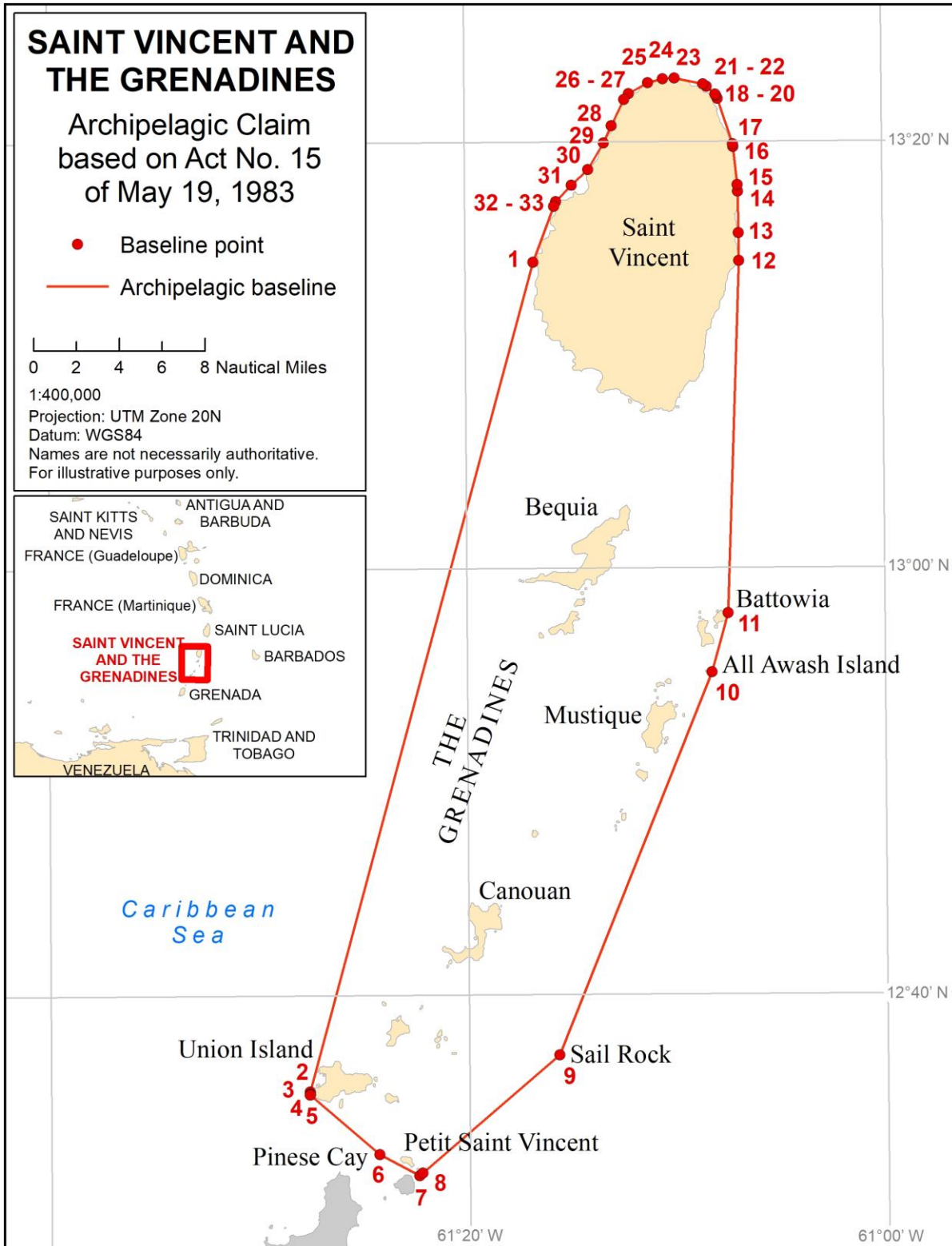
As of August 2019, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had not yet established maritime boundaries with its other neighbors, including Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Section 17 of the *Maritime Areas Act* addresses the situation of undelimited boundaries with respect to all of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' maritime zones. Section 17 provides, in part: "until such time as a delimitation agreement is reached the seaward limits of the affected offshore areas [territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf] of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shall extend to the equidistance line between the archipelagic baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the territorial sea baselines of the other State."

## **Conclusion**

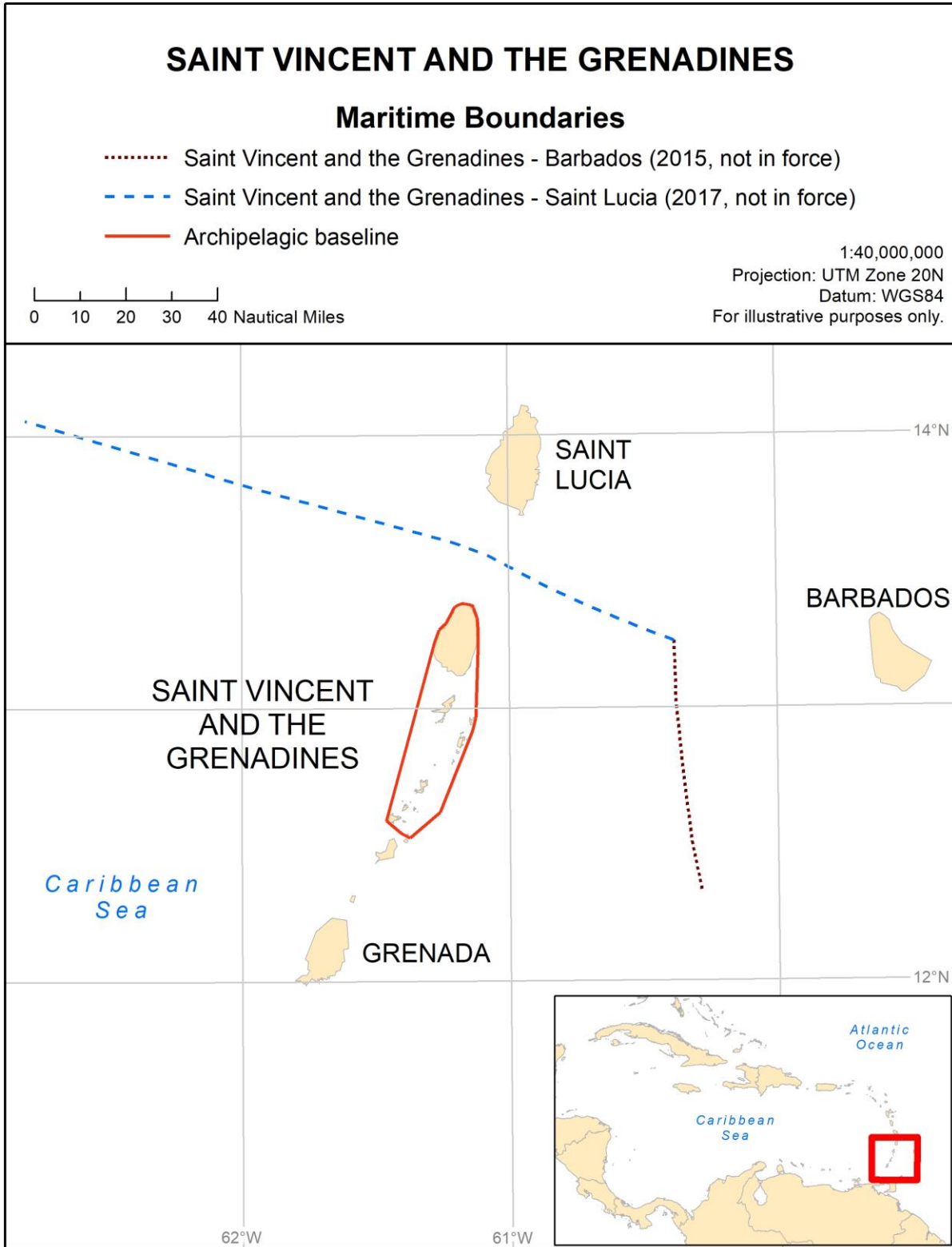
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' archipelagic baseline system enclosing all of its islands appears to be consistent with the LOS Convention (Article 47), as do its closing lines pertaining to bays (Article 10). The provisions of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' legislation pertaining to its maritime zones, including the navigation provisions, likewise appear to be consistent with international law as reflected in the LOS Convention, with the exception of its stipulation that a foreign warship must receive permission from the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines prior to navigating in its archipelagic waters or territorial sea and the provisions on innocent passage that depart from Article 19 of the LOS Convention. These provisions are not permitted by the LOS Convention and are not recognized by the United States.

**Map 1**  
**Illustrative Map of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Archipelagic Baselines**





**Map 2**  
**Illustrative Map of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Maritime Boundaries**



## **Annex 1**

### **MARITIME AREAS ACT, 1983**

#### **Act No. 15 of 1983**

19th May 1983

An act to declare the Maritime Areas and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

On Proclamation

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Assembly of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Maritime Areas Act, 1983 and shall come into operation on such date as the Governor General may, by Proclamation, specify.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Archipelagic sea lanes passage" means the exercise of the rights of navigation and over flight in accordance with the international law in the normal mode solely for the purpose of continuous expeditious and unobstructed transit between one part of the high seas or an exclusive economic zone and another part of the high seas or an economic zone.

"Competent Authority" means the Minister or any person designated by him as the Competent Authority for the purposes of this Act.

"innocent passage" means sea or air passage through the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which is not prejudicial to peace, good order or security;

"Minister" means the Minister for Foreign Affairs;

"warship" means a ship belonging to the armed forces of a State bearing the external marks distinguishing such ships, of its nationality, under the command of an officer duly commissioned by the Government of the State and whose name appears in the appropriate service list or its equivalent and manned by a crew which is under regular armed forces discipline;

"waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" means the internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

3. The internal waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises the waters from the landward side of the archipelagic closing lines to the low water mark of all the island areas of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

4. The archipelagic waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprise the waters from the landward side of the archipelagic baselines to the archipelagic closing lines.

5. The territorial sea of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises the waters from its archipelagic baseline seaward to a limit of 12 nautical miles.

6. The contiguous zone of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises the waters contiguous to its territorial sea from its archipelagic baselines seaward to a limit of 24 nautical miles.

7. The exclusive economic zone of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises the waters, seabed and subsoil, contiguous to its territorial sea from its archipelagic baselines seaward to a limit of 200 nautical miles.
8. The continental shelf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises the seabed, subsoil and the submarine areas contiguous to its territorial sea from its archipelagic baselines seaward to a limit of 200 nautical miles.
9. The waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines including the airspace above and the bed and subsoil thereof form part of the territory of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
10. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (4) and section 14, a foreign ship is entitled to enjoy the right of innocent passage through the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
  - (2) A foreign warship shall not navigate in the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines without the prior permission of the Competent Authority obtained by the State to which the ship belongs.
  - (3) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, make regulations relating to the innocent passage of foreign vessels through the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in respect of any or all of the following:
    - (a) The safety of navigation and regulation of maritime traffic;
    - (b) The protection of navigation aids and facilities and other facilities or installations;
    - (c) The protection of cables and pipelines;
    - (d) The conservation of the living resources of the sea;
    - (e) The prevention of infringement of the laws and regulations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines governing marine living resources;
    - (f) The prevention of the environment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution thereof;
    - (g) Marine scientific research and hydrographic surveys; and
    - (h) The prevention of infringement of the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
  - (4) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, suspend temporarily in specified areas of the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines the innocent passage of foreign ships if such suspension is essential for the protection of the security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
11. (1) The passage of a foreign ship is prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines where, without the prior permission of the Competent Authority obtained by the State to which the ship belongs or the captain or the person in charge of the ship, the ship while in the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines engages in any of the following activities:
  - (a) Any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, or acts in any other manner in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;
  - (b) Any exercise of practice with weapons of any kind;

- (c) Any act aimed at collecting information relating to the defence or security, economic condition or social condition of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (d) Any act by way of propaganda or otherwise aimed at affecting the defence or security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (e) The launching, landing or taking on board of any aircraft;
- (f) The launching, landing or taking on board of devices;
- (g) The taking on board or off-loading of any person, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws or regulations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (h) Any act of pollution calculated to or likely to cause damage or harm to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, its resources or its marine environment;
- (i) Any fishing activities;
- (j) The carrying out of research or survey activities;
- (k) Any act aimed at interfering with any systems of communication or any other facilities or installation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (l) Such other activity as may be prescribed.

(2) The passage of a foreign warship in the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines where the warship navigates such waters without the permission required in subsection (2) of section 10.

12. (1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, designate sea lanes and air routes thereabove suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign ships and aircraft through or over the archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial sea;

(2) All ships and aircraft enjoy the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage in such sea lanes and air routes;

(3) All ships and aircraft shall not navigate closer to the coasts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines than ten percent of the distance between the nearest points on islands and the axis lines of the sea lanes.

(4) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, establish traffic separation schemes for the safe passage of ships through narrow channels in such sea lanes and modify and substitute them from time to time.

13. (1) Every ship in passage shall respect applicable sea lanes and traffic separation schemes established in accordance with this Act.

(2) Every ship or aircraft exercising the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage shall:

(a) proceed without delay through the sea lanes;

(b) refrain from any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of states bordering straits, and shall not act in any manner in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations; and

(c) refrain from any activities other than those incidental to their normal modes or continuous and expeditious passage unless rendered necessary by force majeure or by distress:

(3) Ships in distress shall:

(a) comply with generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices for safety at sea, including the International Regulations for preventing collision at Sea; and

(b) comply with generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships.

(4) Aircraft in passage shall:

(a) observe the rules of the Air established by the International Civil Aviation Organization as they apply to civil aircraft and every state aircraft shall normally comply with such safety measure and shall at all times operate with due regard for the safety of navigation;

(b) at all times monitor the radio frequency assigned, by the appropriate internationally designated air traffic control authority or the appropriate international distress radio frequency.

(5) During its passage through archipelagic sea lanes, a foreign ship, including maritime scientific research and hydrography survey ship, may not carry out any research or survey activities without prior authorization of the Minister.

14. (1) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, make regulations relating to archipelagic sea lanes passage in respect of any or all of the following:

(a) the safety of navigation and the regulation of maritime traffic;

(b) the prevention; reduction and control of pollution, by giving effect to applicable international regulations regarding the discharge of oil, oily wastes and other various and polluting substances;

(c) with respect to fishing vessels, the prevention of fishing including the storage of fishing gear;

(d) the embarking or loading or disembarking or unloading of any person, commodity, or currency in contravention of the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

(2) Every Foreign ship exercising the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage shall comply with all the laws and regulations applicable to it.

(3) The flag state of a ship or aircraft entitled to sovereign immunity which acts in a manner contrary to any law or regulation shall bear international responsibility for any lesser damage which results to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

(4) The Minister may levy charges upon foreign ships passing through the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for specific services rendered to them.

15. In designating or substituting sea lanes or prescribing or substituting traffic separation schemes, the Minister shall refer proposals to the International Maritime Organization, or its successors, with a view to their adoption.

16. The Minister shall publish charts and lists of coordinates of:

- (a) the low water mark of all the islanders of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (b) the archipelagic closing lines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (c) the archipelagic baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (d) the outer limits of the territorial sea of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (e) the outer limits of the contiguous zone of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (f) the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (g) the outer limits of the continental shelf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (h) the axis of any archipelagic sea lanes of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- (i) any traffic separation scheme in the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and give due publicity to the charts and lists and deposit a copy of each chart or list with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

17.(1) Where the rights of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in relation to:

- (a) the territorial sea,
- (b) the contiguous zone,
- (c) the exclusive economic zone, or
- (d) the continental shelf,

overlap with the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, or the continental shelf of an adjacent State, until such time as a delimitation agreement is reached the seaward limits of the affected offshore areas of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shall extend to the equidistance line between the archipelagic baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the territorial sea baselines of the other State.

(2) The temporary offshore boundaries created by subsection (1) shall in no way be interpreted as prejudicing any claims which Saint Vincent and the Grenadines may in the future advance pursuant to the conclusion of maritime boundary delimitation with neighbouring States.

18.(1) The criminal jurisdiction of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shall not be exercised on board a foreign ship passing through the territorial sea or archipelagic waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines nor shall any investigation in connection with any crime committed, save only in cases where:

- (a) The consequences of the crime extend to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; or
- (b) The crime is of a kind to disturb the peace of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines or the good order of the territorial seas;
- (c) The assistance of the local authorities has been requested by the ship or by a diplomatic agent or consular officer of the flag State; or
- (d) Such measures are necessary for the suppression of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

- (2) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, make regulations with regard to the customs, fiscal, health, safety and immigration matters over artificial islands, installations and structures in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines beyond the territorial sea.
19. The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, make regulations relating to the exercise of control in the contiguous zone:
- (a) To prevent infringement of the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary regulations in force on the territory or territorial sea of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and
  - (b) To punish breach of the said regulations committed within the territory or territorial sea of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
20. The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, make regulations regarding the exercises of control in the exclusive economic zone with regard to:
- (a) the exploration and exploitation, conservation and management of living and non-living resources of the seabed and subsoil and the superjacent waters;
  - (b) other activities for the economic exploitation of the zone;
  - (c) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;
  - (d) marine scientific research;
  - (e) the protection and preservation of the marine environment; and
  - (f) any other functional area of jurisdiction which may be accorded to coastal States by international law.
21. The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette make regulations relating to the exercise of control on the continental shelf with regards to:
- (a) the exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living resources;
  - (b) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures; and
  - (c) the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution arising from or in connection with seabed activities.
22. The Minister may, where necessary, establish reasonable safety zones around such artificial islands, installations and structures to ensure the safety both of navigation and of the artificial islands, installations and structures in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- 23.(1) Every law in existence at the commencement of this Act shall be construed with such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary to bring it into conformity with the provisions made by or under this Act and the same shall prevail in every case where there is any conflict between any of the provisions and any such existing law.
- (2) The expression 'Modification, adoptions, qualifications and exceptions' shall include the automatic extension, as far as the law applicable to other parts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the whole of the area within the territorial extent set out in section 9.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Governor-General may, by order made at any time before the expiration of five years from the commencement of the Act, make such alterations to any law in existence as is referred to in subsection (1) as may appear to him to be necessary to bring the provisions of the law in accordance with the provisions of subsection 91).

Passed in the House of Assembly this 19th day of May 1983.



Annex 2<sup>8</sup>

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**Government Gazette**

Published by Authority

[Vol. 147] Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014 – (No. 18)

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

No. 60

NOTICE

**ARCHIPELAGIC CLOSING LINES AND BASELINES OF SAINT VINCENT  
AND THE GRENADINES**

In accordance with the powers conferred by section 16 (b) and (c) of the Maritime Areas Act, Chapter 464, the Minister responsible for security publishes the list of co-ordinates of the archipelagic closing lines and baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The archipelagic closing lines for the delimitation of the internal waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are lines joining in succession the geographical co-ordinates of the terminal points on the WGS84 geodetic datum set out in **Table I**.

The archipelagic baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are comprised of lines joining in succession the geographical co-ordinates of points on the WGS84 geodetic datum set out in **Table II**.

**Table I**  
**Archipelagic Closing Lines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Location	Terminal Points	WGS84 Geodetic Datum	
		Latitude	Longitude
		° ' "	° ' "
<b><u>Saint Vincent [Island]</u></b>			
Owia Bay	Southern	13-22-13.27N	61-07-57.76W
	Northern	13-22-35.04N	61-08-22.11W
Chateaubelair Bay (1)	Northern	13-18-42.90N	61-14-05.26W
	Chateaubelair Island North	13-17-59.19N	61-14-52.55W

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<sup>8</sup>Geographic names are not necessarily those officially used by the United States.

Chateaubelair Bay (2)	Chateaubelair Island South	13-17-43.89N	61-14-43.71W
	Petit Bordel	13-17-40.13N	61-14-42.88W
Cumberland Bay	Northern	13-16-14.27N	61-15-52.46W
	Southern	13-15-46.49N	61-15-54.48W
Wallilabou Bay	Northern	13-15-04.75N	61-16-22.01W
	Southern	13-14-47.63N	61-16-32.27W
Layou Bay	Northern	13-12-08.30N	61-16-37.31W
	Southern	13-11-49.78N	61-16-20.77W
Ottley Hall Bay	South point breakwater	13-09-36.01N	61-14-47.32W
	Southern	13-09-33.39N	61-14-46.70W
Kingstown Bay	Old Woman Point	13-09-14.99N	61-14-31.23W
	Cane Garden Point	13-08-22.80N	61-13-44.21W
Calliaqua Bay	(1) Northern	13-08-04.03N	61-12-13.11W
	Young Island Northwest	13-07-54.70N	61-12-13.52W
	(2) Young Island southwest	13-07-43.45N	61-12-12.60W
	Duvernette Island north	13-07-42.73N	61-12-15.01W
	(3) Duvernette Island Southeast	13-07-38.96N	61-12-12.90W
	Johnson Point	13-07-22.38N	61-11-39.42W
<b><u>Bequia</u></b>			
Admiralty Bay	Devils Table reef	13-00-43.80N	61-14-56.40W
	Headland between Flat Point & Ships Stern	12-59-41.20N	61-16-07.20W
Friendship Bay	(1) Western	12-59-08.55N	61-14-31.69W
	Semples Cay West	12-59-03.77N	61-14-20.39W
	(2) Semples Cay East	12-59-03.66N	61-14-00.05W
Spring Bay	Eastern	12-59-12.81N	61-14-00.05W
	Southern	13-01-00.89N	61-12-55.84W
	Northern	13-01-27.59N	61-12-53.18W
<b><u>Canouan</u></b>			
Charlestown Bay	L'ance Guyac Point reef	12-43-33.99N	61-20-03.99W
	Southern	12-42-17.99N	61-21-14.00W
Mahault Bay	Eastern	12-44-12.71N	61-19-00.27W
	Western	12-44-12.60N	61-19-33.90W
<b><u>Mayreau</u></b>			
Saltwhistle Bay	Eastern	12-38-56.88N	61-23-29.24W
	Western	12-38-53.53N	61-23-39.48W
<b><u>Union Island</u></b>			
Chatham Bay	Northern	12-36-27.54N	61-27-15.54W
	Southern	12-35-40.47N	61-27-30.10W
Ashton Harbour	Queensberry Point	12-35-02.00N	61-26-41.99W
	Frigate Island southwest	12-34-44.37N	61-26-14.13W

**Table II**  
**Archipelagic Baselines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

No.	Location	WGS 84 Geodetic Datum	
		Latitude ° ' "	Longitude ° ' "
1.	Bottle and Glass	13-14-22.96N	61-16-44.51W
2.	Miss Irene Point (north)	12-35-30.53N	61-27-39.27W
3.	Miss Irene Point (mid 1)	12-35-24.17N	61-27-39.38W
4.	Miss Irene Point (mid 2)	12-35-22.38N	61-27-38.92W
5.	Miss Irene Point (south)	12-35-21.71N	61-27-38.53W
6.	Pinese Cay	12-32-33.05N	61-24-20.60W
7.	La Roche (south point of reef)	12-31-32.97N	61-22-26.49W
8.	La Roche (southeast point of reef)	12-31-39.74N	61-22-16.93W
9.	Sail Rock	12-37-11.04N	61-15-42.17W
10.	All Awash Island (east rock)	12-55-06.00N	61-08-17.99W
11.	Battowia (eastern islet)	12-57-52.18N	61-07-30.43W
12.	Colonarie Point	13-14-24.37N	61-06-53.09W
13.	Black Point	13-15-42.13N	61-06-53.67W
14.	Rabacca south	13-17-38.76N	61-06-54.77W
15.	Rabacca north	13-17-57.97N	61-06-55.30W
16.	Tourama Point (south)	13-19-44.87N	61-07-06.68W
17.	Tourama Point (north)	13-19-52.31N	61-07-08.48W
18.	Goat Point (south)	13-22-00.28N	61-07-51.51W
19.	Goat Point (north)	13-22-10.00N	61-07-55.04W
20.	Espagnol Point	13-22-13.27N	61-07-57.76W
21.	Cow and Calves (south)	13-22-35.04N	61-08-22.11W
22.	Cow and Calves (north)	13-22-41.74N	61-08-32.23W
23.	Porter Point	13-22-58.33N	61-09-55.01W
24.	Booby Rock	13-22-56.43N	61-10-28.48W
25.	Cape Roll	13-22-45.92N	61-11-10.72W
26.	Baleine Point	13-22-15.22N	61-12-06.57W
27.	De Yolet Point	13-21-59.56N	61-12-19.55W
28.	Larikai Point	13-20-45.40N	61-12-56.30W
29.	Morne Ronde Point	13-19-57.00N	61-13-19.99W
30.	Richmond Beach	13-18-42.90N	61-14-05.26W
31.	Chateaubelair Island	13-17-59.19N	61-14-52.55W
32.	Dark Head (north)	13-17-13.04N	61-15-38.03W
33.	Dark Head (south)	13-16-59.74N	61-15-44.22W

26<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**DR. THE HONORABLE RALPH GONSALVES**

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance,  
Economic Planning, National Security,  
Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014

**BY COMMAND**

KATTIAN BARNWELL  
Secretary to Cabinet  
Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister's Office  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Annex 3**

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Archipelagic Baseline Segments**

<b>Baseline Segment</b>	<b>Length (M)</b>	<b>Baseline Segment</b>	<b>Length (M)</b>
1-2	40.12	18-19	0.17
2-3	0.11	19-20	0.07
3-4	0.03	20-21	0.54
4-5	0.01	21-22	0.20
5-6	4.27	22-23	1.37
6-7	2.11	23-24	0.54
7-8	0.19	24-25	0.71
8-9	8.46	25-26	1.04
9-10	19.24	26-27	0.33
10-11	2.86	27-28	1.37
11-12	16.47	28-29	0.89
12-13	1.29	29-30	1.43
13-14	1.93	30-31	1.06
14-15	0.32	31-32	1.06
15-16	1.78	32-33	0.24
16-17	0.13	33-1	2.78
17-18	2.23		

## **Annex 4**

### **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

#### ***Article 47***

#### ***Archipelagic baselines***

1. An archipelagic State may draw straight archipelagic baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago provided that within such baselines are included the main islands and an area in which the ratio of the area of the water to the area of the land, including atolls, is between 1 to 1 and 9 to 1.
2. The length of such baselines shall not exceed 100 nautical miles, except that up to 3 per cent of the total number of baselines enclosing any archipelago may exceed that length, up to a maximum length of 125 nautical miles.
3. The drawing of such baselines shall not depart to any appreciable extent from the general configuration of the archipelago.
4. Such baselines shall not be drawn to and from low-tide elevations, unless lighthouses or similar installations which are permanently above sea level have been built on them or where a low-tide elevation is situated wholly or partly at a distance not exceeding the breadth of the territorial sea from the nearest island.
5. The system of such baselines shall not be applied by an archipelagic State in such a manner as to cut off from the high seas or the exclusive economic zone the territorial sea of another State.
6. If a part of the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic State lies between two parts of an immediately adjacent neighbouring State, existing rights and all other legitimate interests which the latter State has traditionally exercised in such waters and all rights stipulated by agreement between those State shall continue and be respected.
7. For the purpose of computing the ratio of water to land under paragraph 1, land areas may include waters lying within the fringing reefs of islands and atolls, including that part of a steep-sided oceanic plateau which is enclosed or early enclosed by a chain of limestone islands and drying reefs lying on the perimeter of the plateau.
8. The baselines drawn in accordance with this article shall be shown on charts of a scale or scales adequate for ascertaining their position. Alternatively, lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, may be substituted.
9. The archipelagic State shall give due publicity to such charts or lists of geographical coordinates and shall deposit a copy of each such chart or list with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.