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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 57

TERRITORIAL SEA BOUNDARY:

CANADA-ST.-PIERRE AND MIQUELON

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the continental shelf of maritime nations.

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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 57

Canada-St.-Pierre and Miquelon Territorial Sea Boundary

September 12, 1974

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Governments of Canada and the French Republic signed an agreement on March 27, 1972, concerning their mutual fishing relations off the Atlantic coast of Canada. The agreement entered into force on the date of signing. Annexed to the agreement was a declaration delimiting the territorial sea between the Canadian province of Newfoundland and the French overseas territory of St.-Pierre and Miquelon. Neither country is party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone.

The Agreement Between Canada and France on Their Mutual Fishing Relations,

Having regard to the fact that the Canadian Government has deemed it necessary, notably with a view to ensuring the protection of Canadian fisheries, to adopt certain measures relating to the delimitation of the territorial sea and the fishing zones of Canada,

Considering it desirable to adapt to present circumstances their mutual relations in fishery matters,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Government of France renounces the privileges established to its advantage in fishery matters by the Convention signed at London, on April 8, 1904, between the United Kingdom and France. The present agreement supersedes all previous treaty provisions relating to fishing by French nationals off the Atlantic coast of Canada.

. . . .

ARTICLE 8

The line defined in the annex to the present agreement determines, in the area between Newfoundland and the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, the limit of the territorial waters of Canada and of the zones submitted to the fishery jurisdiction of France.

ARTICLE 9

No provision of the present agreement shall be interpreted as prejudicing the views and future claims of either party concerning internal waters, territorial waters or jurisdiction with respect to fisheries or the resources of the continental shelf, or the bilateral or multilateral agreements to which either government is a part.

. . . .

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose by their respective governments, have signed the present Agreement and have affixed thereto their

seals.

DONE in two copies at Ottawa in the English and French languages, each version being equally authentic, this 27th day of March, 1972.

The Annex to the Agreement specified that,

The line which determines the limit of the territorial waters of Canada and the zones submitted to the fishery jurisdiction of France extends northward and westward in a series of eight connected straight lines joining the following points:

Point (1) Equidistant 12 nautical miles from L'Enfant Perdu (France) and Lamaline Shag Rock (Canada). Latitude 46°38'46"N., Longitude 55°54'12"W. approximately.

Point (2) Equidistant from L'Enfant Perdu (France) and Lamaline Shag Rock and Otter Rock (Canada). Latitude 46°41'56"N., Longitude 55°55'28"W. approximately.

Point (3) Equidistant from L'Enfant Perdu (France) and Otter Rock and Enfant Perdu (Canada). Latitude 46°48'10"N., Longitude 55°58'57"W. approximately.

Point (4) The low water mark on the south-westernmost point on Enfant Perdu (Canada). Latitude 46°51'20"N., Longitude 56°05'30"W. approximately.

Point (5) The low water mark on the west point of the south-westernmost island of the Little Green Island group. Latitude 46°51'36"N., Longitude 56°05'58"W. approximately.

Point (6) The intersection of the French mid-channel line of 1907 with a line parallel to, and 3 miles distant from a line joining Green Island to Dantzig Point. Latitude 46°55'52"N.,

Longitude 56°07'47"W. approximately.

Point (7) The intersection of the French mid-channel line of 1907 with the median line, equidistant from Bout du Nordet (France) and Little Plate Island (Canada). Latitude 47°06'02"N., Longitude 56°06'18"W. approximately.

Point (8) Equidistant from Cap du Nid a l'Aigle (France) and Little Plate Island and the southwest Wolf Rock (Canada). Latitude 47°18'19"N. Longitude 56°15'18"W. approximately.

Point (9) The intersection of the French mid-channel line of 1907 with the outer limit of Canada's 12-mile territorial Sea. Latitude 47°21'54"N., Longitude 56°29'40"W. approximately.

ANALYSIS

The analysis of the Canada-St.-Pierre and Miquelon territorial sea boundary utilized DMAHC Chart N.O. 14340, 20th Edition, November 1943, revised November 11, 1972, and Canadian Hydrographic Service Chart 405, compiled in 1971. The territorial sea agreement and boundary delimitation were printed on the above Canadian chart.

The territorial sea boundary extends for a distance of 54.34 nautical miles, with an average distance between the turning point of 6.79 nautical miles. The average water depth at the turning points is 60.6 fathoms, with depths ranging from 35 to 160 fathoms.

Five of the territorial sea boundary turning points are equidistant from Canadian and French territory. Overall, the turning points are an average of 6.79 nautical miles from Canadian territory and 7.62 nautical miles from St.-Pierre and Miquelon.

Physical Characteristics of the Canada-St.-Pierre and Miquelon Territorial Sea Boundary

TSB Point	Distance Between Basepoints (nautical miles)	Depth (fathoms)	Canada Territory	Distance Land to TSB Point (nautical miles)		St.-Pierre and Miquelon Territory
1		84	Lamaline Shag Rock	12.00		L'Enfant Perdu
	3.16					
2		65	Lamaline Shag Rock Otter Rock	9.30		L'Enfant Perdu
	6.61					
3		56	Otter Rock Enfant Perdu	5.50		L'Enfant Perdu
	5.50					
4		--	Enfant Perdu	(0)	(3.25)	Petit Colombier (north of Gt. Colombier)
	0.35					
5		--	Little Green Island Group	(0)	(3.18)	Petit Colombier
	4.40					
6		60	North of Little Dantzic Cove	(5.88)	(5.22)	Pte du Cap (north of C. Perce)
	10.30					
7		35	Little Plate I.	5.30		Bout du Nordet
	13.68					
8		85	Big Plate I. south Wolf Rocks	10.30		Cap du Nid a l'Aigle (C. Miquelon)
	10.34					
9		160	southwest Wolf Rocks	(12.85)	(14.50)	Cap du Nid a l'Aigle (C. Miquelon)

The southern terminus of the territorial sea boundary, Point 1, is located 12 nautical miles equidistant from L'Enfant Perdu (France) (46°47'08"N., 56°06'48"W.) and Lamaline Shag Rock (Canada) (46°50'24"N., 55°49'40"W.).

Turning Point 2 is 9.30 nautical miles equidistant from L'Enfant Perdu (France) and Lamaline Shag Rock and Otter Rock (46°51'00"N., 55°52'16"W.) (Canada). The distance between Point 1 and Point 2 is 3.16 nautical miles.

Point 3 is 6.61 nautical miles from Point 2 and 6.61 nautical miles equidistant from L'Enfant Perdu (France) and Otter Rock and Enfant Perdu (Canada).

From Point 3 to Point 4 is a distance of 5.50 nautical miles. Point 4 is not equidistant from French and Canadian territory; it is located at the low-water mark off the southwest point of Enfant Perdu, a Canadian islet. Petit Colombier, a French islet immediately north of Great Colombier, is 3.25 nautical miles from Point 4 and is the nearest French territory.

Point 4 and 5 are separated by a distance of 0.35 nautical miles. Point 5 is not equidistant from the two sovereignties, but is located at the low-water mark on the west point of the south-westernmost island of the Little Green Island group, which is Canadian. Petit Colombier, 3.18 nautical miles southwest of Point 5, is the closest French islet.

The distance between Points 5 and 6 is 4.40 nautical miles. Point 6 is not an equidistant site; it is located at the intersection of the French mid-channel line of 1907 with a line parallel to, and 3 nautical miles west of, a line joining Green Island and Dantzic Point, Newfoundland. The nearest Canadian territory to Point 6 is 5.88 nautical miles at a location a little north of Little Dantzic Cove. The French islet of Petit du Cap, north of Cap Perce, is 5.22 nautical miles from Point 6.

Point 7 is 10.30 nautical miles from Point 6, and is also 5.30 nautical miles equidistant from Little Plate Island (Canada) and Bout du Nordet (47°04'43"N., 56°13'13"W.) (France). Point 7 also marks the intersection of the French mid-channel line of 1907 and the median line equidistant from the islands of Little Plate and Bout du Nordet.

It is 13.68 nautical miles between Points 7 and 8. According to the annex to the agreement, Point 8 is equidistant from Cap du Nid a l'Aigle (variant name is Cap Miquelon) (France) and Little Plate Island and the southwest Wolf Rocks (Canada). An analysis of the Canadian and U.S. hydrographic charts reveals that it is Big Plate Island and not Little Plate Island that is the location which is equidistant from Point 8 on the Canadian side. Further, it is the southernmost Wolf Rocks, and not the southwest Wolf Rocks, which is another site on the Canadian side equidistant from Point 8. Point 8 is 10.30 nautical miles from both Canadian and French territory.

The distance from Point 8 to Point 9 is 10.34 nautical miles. Point 9 is not equidistant from French and Canadian territory; it is situated at the intersection of the French-mid-channel line of 1907 and the outer limit of Canada's 12 nautical-mile territorial sea. The territorial

sea is measured from the Canadian straight baseline which closes Hermitage Bay. Point 9 is 12.85 nautical miles from southwest Wolf Rocks (Canada) and 14.50 nautical miles from Cap du Nid a l'Aigle (Cap Miquelon) (France).

SUMMARY

The territorial sea boundary between St.-Pierre and Miquelon (France) and Newfoundland (Canada) utilizes both the equidistance principle and negotiated locations in delimiting the 54.34 - nautical-miles boundary. Five of the turning points are equidistant locations, whereas the other four points represent negotiated positions. Islands were both considered and ignored as locational factors in the boundary delimitation.

Canada-St. Pierre and Miquelon Territorial Sea Boundary

1st Ed., Nov. 1898

PATHFINDER

47°21′54″N. 56°29′40″W. (9)

47°18′19″N. 56°15′18″W. (8)

47°06′02″N. 56°06′18″W. (7)

46°55′52″N. 56°07′47″W. (6)

46°51′36″N. 56°05′58″W. (5)

46°51′20″N. 56°05′30″W. (4)

46°48′10″N. 55°58′57″W. (3)

46°41′56″N. 55°55′28″W. (2)

46°38′46″N. 55°54′12″W. (1)

The two Pass I lights appear as one light at a distance of 4¼ miles

N.O. 14341

N.O. 14342

N.O. 14344

N.O. 14345

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST PIERRE BANK

FORTUNE BAY

PLACENTIA BAY

HERMITAGE BAY

BAY D'ESPOIR

LONG I.

BOIS I.

GREAT MIQUELON

LITTLE MIQUELON

563145 5-74

Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State.
From N.O. 14340, 20th Ed., Nov. 1943; Revised 11/27/72.