

HONDURAS

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Jan 82	Decree No. 131 (Revised Constitution)	12nm	
	Oct 99	Decree No. 172-99, Honduran Maritime Areas	12nm	This decree was passed to implement UNCLOS ratification into national law.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 82	Const., Art.10		Claims Gulf of Fonseca as historic bay.
	Sep 92	ICJ Decision		Confirms Gulf of Fonseca's historic status.
	Oct 99	Decree No. 172-99 Honduran Maritime Areas		Legislation authorizing straight baselines in accordance with 1982 LOS Convention.
	Mar 2000	Executive Decree No. PCM 007-2000		Establishes a system of straight baselines around parts of its Caribbean coast from which to measure the limits of its territorial sea and other maritime zones. <i>Portions of these straight baselines are not recognized by the US, which formally protested in 2001. See LIS No. 124.</i>
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Jan 82	Decree No. 131 (Revised Constitution)	24nm	
	Oct 99	Decree No. 172-99 Honduran Maritime Areas	24nm	
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jan 82	Decree No. 131 (Revised Constitution)	1958 DEF	
	Oct 99	Decree No. 172-99 Honduran Maritime Areas	200nm	200nm or to outer edge of continental shelf.
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Oct 99	Decree No. 172-99 Honduran Maritime Areas	200nm	EEZ.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Aug 86	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Colombia signed.
	Sep 92	ICJ Decision		ICJ Decision announced on the Salvador/Honduras border dispute. Decision addresses the islands in the Gulf of Fonseca and the maritime boundary in and beyond the closing line of the Gulf.
	Dec 2001	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with UK delimiting boundary between Cayman Islands and Honduras
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed Convention.
	Oct 93			Ratified Convention.
	Jul 2003			Bound by Part XI Agreement.

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

The following system of straight baselines is extracted from the 21 March 2000 Executive Decree No. PCM 007-2000.

Article 1

The straight baselines in the Caribbean Sea and in the Pacific Ocean which shall be used to delimit the territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf, shall be established as follows:

The straight baselines for the delimitation of the maritime spaces to which Article 3 of the Law on Maritime Spaces of Honduras refers shall be as follows:

(A) On the Atlantic Coasts of the Caribbean Sea: From the last marker of the land boundary between Honduras and Guatemala on the right bank of the mouth of the Motagua River, known as Station 233, with coordinates based on the Ocotepeque Datum, Point 1, 15° 43' 28.80" north latitude, 88° 13' 24.59" west longitude, to Point 2, the northern part of Punta Caballos, with the following coordinates: 15° 51' 50" north latitude, 87° 85' 55" west longitude.

From Point 3, with the following coordinates 15° 55' 25" north latitude, 87° 43' 25" west longitude, located west of the mouth of the Ulua River, to Point 4, the northern part of Punta Sul, with the following coordinates, 15° 55' 50" north latitude, 87° 32' 55" west longitude.

From Point 4 to the lighthouse ruins located on the western end of Utila Island, Point 5, with the following coordinates: 16° 05' 23" north latitude, 86° 59' 22" west longitude.

From Point 6, located at Blackish Point, with the following coordinates: 16° 07' 18" north latitude, 86° 56' 05" west longitude, on Utila Island, to Point 7, on the eastern part of Roatan Island known as Half Moon, with the following coordinates: 16° 18' 19" north latitude, 86° 35' 45" west longitude.

From Point 8, the eastern part of Roatan Island, known as Red Cliff, with the following coordinates: 16° 25' 48" north latitude, 86° 11' 52" west longitude, to Point 9 on Morat Island, with the following coordinates: 16° 26' 07" north latitude, 86° 11' 14" west longitude.

From Point 9 to Point 10 on Barbareta Island, known as Trunk Turtle Beach, with the following coordinates: 16° 26' 48" north latitude, 86° 08' 40" west longitude.

From Point 10, to Point 11 on Guanaja Island, known as Black Point, with the following coordinates: 16° 30' 51" north latitude, 85° 51' 48" west longitude.

From Point 12, Black Rock Point, on Guanaja Island, with the following coordinates: 16° 29' 53" north latitude, 85° 48' 55" west longitude, to Point 13, the Camaron Triangulation Station, on Cabo Camaron, with the following coordinates: 15° 59' 09" north latitude, 85° 01' 32" west longitude.

From Point 13 to Point 14 at Punta Patuca, west of the mouth of the Patuca River, with the following coordinates: 15° 48' 58" north latitude, 84° 18' 20" west longitude.

From Point 14 to Point 15, on the left bank of the mouth of the Cruta River, with the following coordinates: 15° 15' 15" north latitude to 83° 23' 28" west longitude.

From the Point on the left bank to another point on the right bank of the mouth of the Cruta River, Point 16, with the following coordinates: 15° 14' 59" north latitude, 83° 23' 07" west longitude.

From the Point on the right bank of the Cruta River to Point 17, the termination of the land boundary between Honduras and Nicaragua at the mouth of the Coco (Wanks) or Segovia River on Cape Gracias a Dios, with the following coordinates: 14° 59' 8" north latitude, 83° 08' 9" west longitude.

(B) In the Pacific Ocean, the straight baseline is the proportional segment corresponding to Honduras on the baseline common to the three Gulf of Fonseca coastal States, which in turn is part of the closing line or "mouth line" of the Gulf, between Punta Amapala in El Salvador and Punta Cosiguina in Nicaragua, all in accordance with the terms of the judgment rendered by the International Court of Justice on September 11, 1992, settling the Land, Island and Maritime Frontier Dispute between the Republics of Honduras and El Salvador.

The territorial sea and other Honduran maritime spaces shall be measured from the line segment corresponding to Honduras.

Article 2

The above-mentioned lines appear on the General Map of Honduras, scale 1:1,000,000, which is attached hereto and which shall be duly

published pursuant to the norms of international law currently in force.

Article 3

For those segments of continental coastline for which the drawing of straight baselines was not considered, the baseline shall be the low-water line.

Article 4

On the islands under Honduran sovereignty in the Caribbean Sea, such as Swan Island, Cayo Gorda, and the Cayo Sur, the baselines of the corresponding maritime spaces shall be the low-water line along the coast, from which the maritime spaces will be measured.

Article 5

With the exception of Station 233, all coordinates of the end points of straight baselines are based on the North American 1927 Datum.

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following comments regarding Honduras' straight baseline system are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 124, "Straight Baseline Claim: Honduras" of 28 June 2001.

Pacific Ocean

In Article 1(B), Honduras claims a segment of the Gulf of Fonseca closing line as its straight baseline from which to determine the breadth of its maritime claims in the Pacific Ocean. This claim results from the ICJ's 1992 ruling in the *Land, Island and Maritime Frontier Dispute between Honduras and El Salvador*. The interpretation and application of this decision require the agreement among El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua....

Caribbean Sea

Honduras has created 16 straight baseline segments along its Caribbean coastline which range in length from 0.4 miles to 62.6 miles....

**TABLE C1.T103.
HONDURAS BASELINE SEGMENTS: U.S. ANALYSIS**

BASELINE SEGMENT	LENGTH (NM)
1-2	18.0
3-4	7.2
4-5	36.5
6-7	22.4
8-9	0.7
9-10	2.6
10-11	16.7
12-13	54.9
13-14	42.8
14-15	62.7
15-16	0.4
16-17	20.4

Segment 1-2 begins at the terminus of the Honduras-Guatemala international boundary ("from the last marker of the land boundary...on the right bank of the mouth of the Motagua River") to the northern point of Punta Caballos. This stretch of Honduran coastline is smooth with no fringing islands. A straight baseline segment is inappropriate in this area where there are neither fringing islands nor a coastline which is deeply indented and cut into. The territorial sea should be measured from the low-water mark.

Baseline segment 3-4, slightly more than 7 miles in length, connects a point near Punta Ulua (just west of the Ulua River) to Punta Sal. The body of water enclosed by this line fails to meet Article 10 bay closing line requirements, and the straight baseline geographic requirements are not met, as well.

Claimed baseline segment 4-5 connects the mainland coast at Punta Sal to the western end of Isla de Utila, more than 36 miles to the northeast. There are no intervening islands between Punta Sal and this island and the mainland coastline is quite smooth and is not "deeply indented or cut into". The waters enclosed by this line segment would not be considered "sufficiently closely linked to the land domain to be subject to the regime of internal waters". Therefore, the appropriate baseline in this area would be the low-water mark.

Between basepoints 5, at the western end of Isla de Utila, and 6, situated about 3.7 miles east along the north coast of the island, Honduras claims the low-water mark as the baseline. Baseline segment 6-7 connects the north coast of Isla de Utila to a point on the west coast of Isla de Roatan, just north of Punta Oeste.

The baseline continues eastward for about 24 miles along the low-water mark of Isla de Roatan's north coast to point 8, situated on the eastern end of the island. From here, point 8 is connected to point 9 on Isla Morat by a straight baseline segment of less than one mile. Segment 9-10 then connects Isla Morat to the central part of the north coast of Isla Barbareta; the straight baseline system continues as segment 10-11 connects this island to the north coast of Isla de Guanaja.

From point 11 the baseline continues along the northeast coast of Isla de Guanaja as the low-water mark to point 12, situated at Black Rock Point on the eastern end of the island. From this point, Honduras claims a straight baseline segment, almost 55 miles in length, that extends to the southeast and point 13 at Cabo Camaron on the mainland. This straight baseline segment clearly exceeds the provisions of the LOS Convention as neither geographic criteria is met: there are no fringing islands nor is the mainland deeply indented or cut into....

From point 13, Honduras claims 4 straight baseline segments (13-14, 14-15, 15-16, and 16-17) that incorporate the remaining Caribbean-facing coastline to the mouth of the Rio Coco and its international boundary terminus with Nicaragua. With the exception of segment 15-16, which is a valid river closing line, these segments exceed the provisions of the LOS Convention. The Honduran coastline along this stretch is quite smooth with no deep indentations and there are no fringing islands. And, two of the baseline segments, 13-14 and 14-15, are quite long being approximately 43 and 63 miles, respectively, in length....