

PANAMA

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Jun 96	Law No. 38	12nm	Rolled back 1967 excessive claim of a 200nm territorial sea.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 56	Law No. 9		Claimed the Gulf of Panama as historic bay (from Punta Mala to Punta Jaque). <i>This claim is not recognized by the U.S.</i> U.S. protested claim in 1956 and 1988.
	Jun 96	Law No. 38		Repeated claim of Gulf of Panama as historic bay.
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Jun 96	Law No. 38	24nm	
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jun 96	Law No. 38	200nm/ CM	
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jun 96	Law No. 38	200nm	EEZ.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Nov 77	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Colombia (Caribbean and Pacific) EIF.
	Feb 82	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Costa Rica (Caribbean and Pacific) EIF.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed Convention.
	Jul 96			Ratified Convention, with Declaration reiterating claim to Gulf of Panama. Bound by Part XI Agreement.

HISTORIC WATERS LEGISLATION

The following is extracted from Law Number 9 of 30 January 1956 claiming the Gulf of Panama as an historic bay.

Concerning authorizations to the Executive Organ with relation to the exercise of national sovereignty over the Gulf of Panama as a historic bay

The National Assembly of Panama,

Considering:

That because of its geographic configuration and its vital interest and necessity to the nation, the Republic of Panama and its predecessors in dominion over the Isthmus of Panama have been exercising sovereignty over the waters of the Gulf of Panama in the Pacific Ocean from time immemorial;

That the territorial character of the gulf under reference and the exercise of Panamanian sovereignty over it always had the tacit acquiescence of all states;

That Panama is exclusive owner and sovereign of all the shores which border the reference gulf;

That in view of the circumstances and reasons expressed, the Gulf of Panama in the Pacific Ocean is a historic bay consistent with international law, over which the Republic possesses and exercises the attributes, powers and competences inherent to sovereignty.

Decrees:

Article 1

Authorization is conferred on the Executive Organ to dictate such measures or regulations as may be necessary for the control of navigation on the waters of the Gulf of Panama, the regulation of mobile and sedentary fisheries, and in general for the protection, conservation and exploitation of the marine species and all kinds of natural resources which may be produced or may exist in said waters and their underlying soil and subsoil.

Article 2

For the effects of this law the Gulf or Bay of Panama in the Pacific Ocean is constituted by the maritime area between the continental body of the Isthmus of Panama and an imaginary straight line running from West to East, from Punta Mala on the Peninsula of Azuero to Punta Jaque on the Darien Coast.

MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS**PANAMA - COLOMBIA**

The following is extracted from the Agreement between Panama and Colombia Delimiting the Boundaries in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (signed November 1976, EIF November 1977).

A. In the Caribbean Sea:

1. The median line all points on which are equidistant from the closest points on the base lines from which the width of each nation's territorial sea is measured, from the point at which the international land boundary touches the sea at Cab Tiburon (8°41'7.3" north latitude and 77°21'50.9" west longitude) to the point situated at 12°30'00" north latitude and 78°00'00" west longitude.

In accordance with the principle of equidistance agreed upon herein, with the exception of some minor deviations that have been approved to simplify the route, the median line in the Caribbean Sea is comprised of straight lines drawn between the following points:

TABLE C1.T195.
PANAMA - COLOMBIA MARITIME BOUNDARY: CARIBBEAN SEA

POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
Point A:	08° 41' 7.3"	77° 21' 50.9"
Point B:	09° 09' 00"	77° 13' 00"
Point C:	09° 27' 00"	77° 03' 00"
Point D:	10° 28' 00"	77° 15' 00"
Point E:	11° 27' 00"	77° 34' 00"
Point F:	12° 00' 00"	77° 43' 00"
Point G:	12° 19' 00"	77° 49' 00"
Point H:	12° 30' 00"	78° 00' 00"

2. Starting at the point situated at 12°30'00" north latitude and 78°00'00" west longitude, the delimitation of the marine and submarine areas belonging to each of the two nations consists of a series of straight lines drawn between the following points:

CONTINUATION OF TABLE C1.T195.

POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
Point H:	12° 30' 00"	78° 00' 00"
Point I:	12° 30' 00"	79° 00' 00"
Point J:	11° 50' 00"	79° 00' 00"
Point K:	11° 50' 00"	80° 00' 00"
Point L:	11° 00' 00"	80° 00' 00"

POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
Point M:	11° 00' 00"	81° 15' 00"

B. In the Pacific:

1. The median line all [sic] points on which are equidistant from the closest points on the baselines from which the width of each nation's territorial sea is measured, from the point at which the international land boundary touches the sea at 7°12'39.3" north and 77°53'20.9" west longitude to the point situated at 5°00'00" north latitude and 79°52'00" west longitude.

In accordance with the principle of equidistance agreed upon herein, with the exception of some minor deviations that have been approved to simplify the route, the median line in the Pacific Ocean is comprised of straight lines drawn between the following points:

TABLE C1.T196.
PANAMA - COLOMBIA MARITIME BOUNDARY: PACIFIC OCEAN

POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
Point A:	07° 12' 39.3"	77° 53' 20.9"
Point B:	06° 44' 00"	78° 18' 00"
Point C:	06° 28' 00"	78° 47' 00"
Point D:	06° 16' 00"	79° 03' 00"
Point E:	06° 00' 00"	79° 14' 00"
Point F:	05° 00' 00"	79° 52' 00"

2. Starting at the point situated at 5°00'00" north latitude and 79°52'00" west longitude, the delimitation of the marine and submarine areas belonging to each of the two nations consists of parallel 5°00'00" as far as the location where the delimitation must be made with a third nation.

PANAMA - COSTA RICA

The following is extracted from the Maritime Boundary Agreement between Panama and Costa Rica (Caribbean and Pacific) (EIF February 1982).

Article I

[The Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama have decided] to establish as the boundary between their marine areas the following lines:

(1) In the Caribbean Sea:

The median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of each state is measured in accordance with public international law; from the termination of the land boundary between the two countries, at a point located in the mouth of the Sixaola River, latitude 09° 34' 16" N, longitude 82° 34' 00" W, along a straight line to a point located at latitude 10° 49' 00" N, longitude 81° 26' 08.2" W, where the boundaries of Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama intersect.

(2) In the Pacific Ocean:

The median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of each state is measured in accordance with international public law; the boundary between the maritime areas of the two countries shall consist of a straight line starting at the southernmost point of land boundary at Punta Burica and terminating at a point at latitude 05° 00' 00" N and longitude 84° 19' 00" W.

Article II

[The parties will] accept and respect the ways in which each of the two states currently exercises, or may exercise in the future, its sovereignty, jurisdiction, protection, control, or rights in the marine areas adjacent to its coasts, as delimited by this treaty, in accordance with the measures that each country has established or may establish in the future and with the regulations of its domestic law.

Article III

The Republic of Panama, in view of the great importance of specific recognition by the Republic of Costa, as a neighboring country, of the Gran Golfo de Panama (Gulf of Panama) as an historic bay, has requested such recognition from Costa Rica.

The Republic of Costa Rica, aware that its specific recognition that the Gran Golfo de Panama (Gulf of Panama) has the nature of an historic bay is very important insofar as the incontestability of that nature is concerned, declares that it does not object to provisions to that effect set forth by the Republic of Panama in its Law No. 9 of January 30, 1956.