

FOREWORD

The Maritime Claims Reference Manual (MCRM) is issued by the DoD Representative for Ocean Policy Affairs (REPOPA) under the authority of DoD Instruction S-2005.01, Freedom of Navigation (FON) Program (U), October 20, 2014. It provides a general reference concerning the maritime claims of all coastal nations. Its principal purpose is to facilitate the DoD Freedom of Navigation Program. Consequently, in selecting data for inclusion, primary emphasis has been placed on information concerning claims directly affecting navigation and overflight. Limited information has been included concerning other claims (e.g., Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), continental shelf claims, and environmental regulations). DoD 2005.1-M, "Maritime Claims Reference Manual," June 23, 2005, is hereby canceled.

The maritime claims included in the MCRM come from official sources and were publicized by the coastal nations making the claims. Some of these claims are inconsistent with international law. The United States does not recognize those maritime claims that are not in conformity with customary international law, as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention. Examples include excessive straight baseline claims, territorial sea claims in excess of 12 nautical miles, and other claims that unlawfully impede freedom of navigation and overflight. The MCRM notes many instances in which the United States has protested excessive claims and conducted operational assertions against such excessive claims under the Freedom of Navigation Program. Failure to categorize any maritime claim as excessive within the MCRM does not indicate acceptance by the United States of the excessive claims.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the claims referenced in the MCRM are accurate and up-to-date. Users must bear in mind, however, that foreign statutes and decrees change frequently. Most of the legislation and treaties cited in the MCRM can be accessed from the [United Nations website](#).

The MCRM will be updated by periodic changes, but users are encouraged to consult other materials in conjunction with the MCRM when seeking authoritative determination of any particular claim. It is recommended that operational commanders verify the currency of the MCRM with their Combatant Command when planning sensitive exercises or operations.

For background on the legal regimes and geographic aspects of maritime claims, refer to Chapter 1, "Legal Divisions of the Oceans and Airspace," in [The Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations](#), NWP 1-14M, MCWP 5-12.1, COMDTPUB P5800.7A (2007).

For the MCRM to remain current, users in the field, particularly the Combatant Commands and Defense Attachés' Offices, must assist in providing new legislation, decrees, or other information that may alter any of the claims included in the MCRM. Send recommended changes and updated information on maritime claims, with supporting documentation where possible, to the agent responsible for preparation of the MCRM:

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FORMAT

The MCRM provides a summary listing: the maritime claims of each coastal state, the date of each claim, its source or title (hyperlinked where available), the breadth of the claim where applicable, and notes of significance.

Each summary is arranged by headings in the following order:

Territorial Sea
Archipelagic, Straight Baselines, & Historic Claims
Contiguous Zone
Continental Shelf
Fishing Zone/EEZ
Environmental Regulation
Maritime Boundaries
LOS Convention

All headings for which a particular nation has no known claim have been omitted. For some countries, the summary is followed by text from legislation or agreements.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations and acronyms are used throughout the MCRM:

200nm/CM: 200 nautical miles or Continental Margin

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EIF: Entered Into Force

EXP: Depth of Exploitation

LIS: Limits in the Sea; Department of State publication

LOS Convention: 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention

m: Meters

nm: Nautical Miles (2000 yards = 1852 m)

1958 DEF: Definition of Continental Shelf as contained in the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf, which is: "the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coast but outside the area of the territorial sea, to a depth of 200 m or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits the exploitation of the natural resources of the said areas."