# APPENDIX 1

# GLOSSARY

**INTRODUCTION**

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea includes terms of a technical nature that may not always be readily understood by those seeking general information or those called upon to assist in putting the Convention articles into effect. Such readers could vary from politicians and lawyers to hydrographers, land surveyors, cartographers, geographers and others. The need to understand such terms may become of particular concern to those involved in matters such as baselines, maritime limits, and boundary delimitation. Accordingly, the Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Working Group of the IHO has produced this Glossary to assist all readers of the Convention in understanding the hydrographic, cartographic and oceanographic terms used.

Where definitions have been extracted verbatim from the Convention or where the Working Group has defined the terms itself, they will appear in bold type in the documents. Explanatory notes appear beneath these in lighter type. Where appropriate, reference is made to the articles of the Convention.

Care has been taken to provide definitions that are within the context of the subject matter. Where this has not been an overriding consideration, consistency with the Hydrographic Dictionary, Part I, Fourth Edition has been adopted.

The Glossary should be read in conjunction with Appendix 2. This provides more detailed information on the applications of the Convention.

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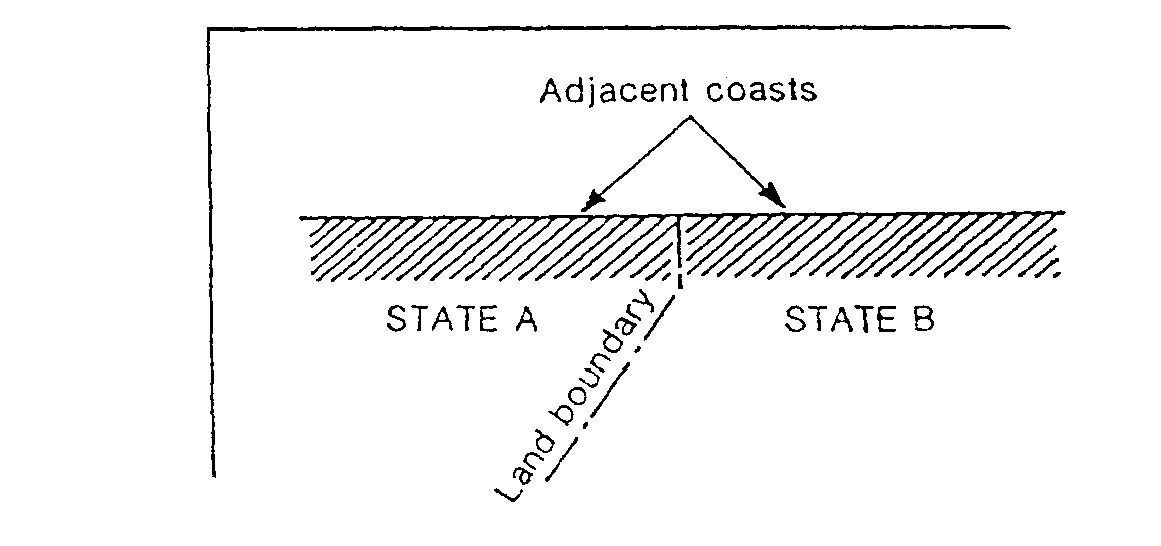
103 WATER COLUMN

**GLOSSARY**

1 **ADJACENT COASTS**

**The coasts lying either side of the land boundary between two adjoining States.**

# Figure 1 ‑ Adjacent Coasts

2 **AID TO NAVIGATION**

**A visual, acoustical, or RADIO device, external to a ship, designed to assist in determining a safe COURSE or a vessel’s POSITION, or to warn of dangers and/or OBSTRUCTIONS. Aids to navigation usually include BUOYS, BEACONS, FOG SIGNALS, LIGHTS, RADIO BEACONS, LEADING MARKS, RADIO position fixing systems and GNSS which are chart-related and assist safe NAVIGATION.**

See the Convention:

navigational and safety aids: 21(1)(b); 43(a)

See: NAVIGATIONAL AID

3 **ARCHIPELAGIC BASELINES** See the Convention (Art 47)

See: BASELINE

4 **ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES PASSAGE**

See the Convention:

right of archipelagic sea lane passage: Art 53

regime: Art 49(4)

See: ROUTEING SYSTEM; TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

5 **ARCHIPELAGIC STATES**

See the convention:

see generally: Art 46 to 54

baselines: Art 47;48; 49(1)

internal waters delimitation: Art 51(2)

sovereignty: Art 2: 49(1); 49(2); 49(3)

submarine cable; Art 51(2)

suspension of innocent passage: Art 52(2)

traditional rights: Art 51(1)

use of term: 46(a)

See: ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS; BASELINE; ISLANDS

6 **ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS**

**The waters enclosed by archipelagic baselines.**

See the Convention:

delimitation: Art 50

hot pursuit: Art 111(1)

legal status of archipelagic waters, of the air space over archipelagic waters and of their bed and subsoil: Art 49; 49(4); 86

sea lanes passage and air routes: Art 54(1); 53(4)

sovereignty: Art 2(1); 49(1); l49(2)

traditional rights: Art 47(6); 51(1)

use of term: Art 46(b); 49(1)

See: ARCHIPELAGIC STATE; BASELINE; INTERNAL WATERS

7 **AREA**

See the Convention:

use of term and scope: Art 1(1)

See: BASELINE; CONTINENTAL SHELF; DEEP OCEAN FLOOR; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; SEABED; SUBSOIL

8 **ARTIFICIAL ISLAND**

See: INSTALLATION (OFF‑SHORE)

9 **ATOLL**

**A ring or horseshoe shaped reefs enclosing or nearly enclosing a tropical lagoon, with or without an island or islands situated on it, and surrounded by open sea.**

See the Convention:

reefs: Art 6

archipelagic baselines: Art 47(1); 47(7)

The reef may be built of coral and/or calcareous algae. An atoll is built on an existing structure such as extinct, submerged volcano.

See: ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS; BASELINE; ISLANDS; LOW‑WATER LINE; REEF

10 **BANK**

**An elevation of the seafloor over which the depth of water is relatively shallow.**

See the Convention:

mouths of rivers: Art 9

occurrence of term: Art 76(6)

See: CONTINENTAL SHELF, LOW TIDE ELEVATION

11 **BASELINE**

**The line from which the outer limits of a State's territorial sea and certain other outer limits of coastal State jurisdiction are measured.**

See the Convention:

archipelagic: Art 47; 48; 49(1)

bays: Art 10(5): 10(6)

charts or coordinates; Art 16; 47(8)

continental shelf: Art 76(1); 76(4)(a); 76(5); 76(6);76(4)(a);82(1);246(6)

exclusive economic zone: Art 57

method of determining: Art 5; 7; 9; 10(6); 14; 35(a); 47(1); 47(2); 47(3); 47(4); 47(5)

reefs: Art 6

territorial sea: Art 3; 4; 6; 7; 8(1); 13(1); 15; 16(1); 47(4); 48; 57; 246(6)

12 **BASEPOINT**

**A basepoint is any point on a baseline.**

13 **BAY**

**Wide indentation in the coastline generally smaller than a gulf and larger than a cove. For the purposes of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a bay is well-marked indentation whose penetration is in such proportion to the width of its mouth as to contain land locked waters and constitute more than a mere curvature of the coast. Compare historic bay.**

See the Convention:

mouth of a bay: Art 10(2); 10(3)

disputes involving historic bays: Art 298(1)(a)(i)

historic: Art 10(6)

use of term: Art 10

See: HISTORIC BAYS

14 **CAP**

**A seafloor elevation with a rounded cap-like top.**

See the convention: Art 76(6)

15 **CHART**

**A special-purpose map generally designed for navigation or other particular purposes.**

See the Convention:

adequate scale: Art 16(1); 47(8); 75(1); 84(1)

archipelagic baselines: Art 47(8); 47(9)

area: Art 134(3)

continental shelf: Art 76(9); 84

depositary: Art 16(2); 47(9); 75(2); 76(9); 84(2); 134(3)

duties of the flag State: Art 94(4)(a)

exclusive economic zone: Art 75

large-scale: Art 5

officially recognised: Art 5; 6

publicity: Art 16(2); 22(4); 41(6); 47(9);53(10); 75(2); 84(2); 134(3)

sea lanes and traffic separation schemes: Art 22(4); 41(6); 53(10)

territorial sea: 5; 6; 16

BASELINE; COAST; DANGER TO NAVIGATION; GEODETIC DATUM; LOW‑WATER LINE; NAVIGATION AID; SEABED

**16 CHART DATUM**

**The tidal level to which depths on a nautical chart are referred to constitutes a vertical datum being called Chart Datum.**

See: M-3 IHO Resolution 3/1919

17 **CLOSING LINE**

**A line that divides the internal waters and territorial sea of a coastal State, or in the case of an archipelagic State, a line that divides the internal waters and archipelagic waters.**

See the Convention:

archipelagic waters: Art 50

bays: Art 10

mouths of rivers: Art 9

ports: Art 11

See: ARCHIPELAGIC STATE; BASELINE; BAY; HARBOUR WORKS; INTERNAL WATERS and LOW‑WATER LINE

18 **COAST**

**The edge or margin of the land next to the sea; the seashore. Sometime defined as the meeting of the land and the sea considered as the boundary of the land.**

See the Convention opposite or adjacent coasts, *see also* delimitation:

continental shelf delimitation: Art 76(10); 83(1); 134(4); Annex 2/9

exclusive economic zone: Art 74(1)

territorial sea delimitation: Art 15

See: BASELINE and LOW‑WATER LINE

19 **CONTIGUOUS ZONE**

**A zone contiguous to a coastal State’s territorial sea, which may not extend beyond 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The coastal State may exercise certain control in this zone subject to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

See the convention:

archaeological and historic objects: Art 303(2)

archipelagic States: Art 48

breadth: Art 33(2); 48

hot pursuit: Art 111(1); 111(4)

islands: Art 121(2)

use of the term: Art 33(1)

See: BASELINE ; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ; HIGH SEAS

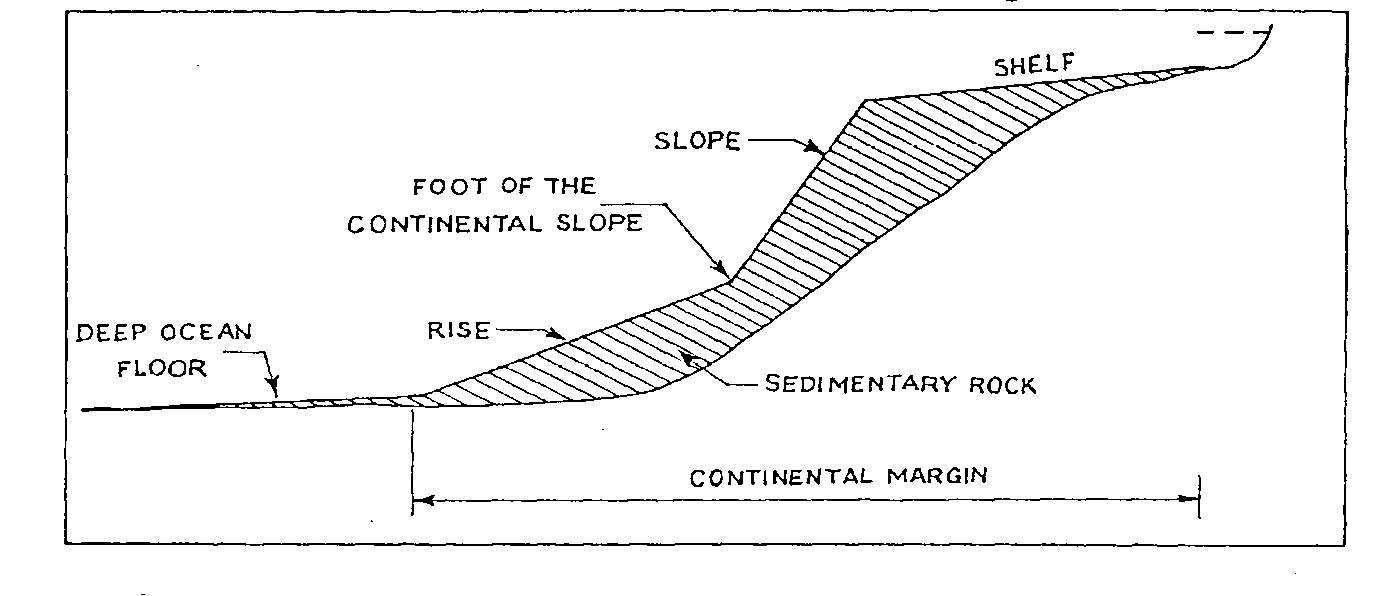
20 **CONTINENTAL MARGIN**

**The continental margin comprises the submerged prolongation of the land mass of the coastal State, and consists of the seabed and subsoil of the shelf, the slope and the rise. It does not include the deep ocean floor with its oceanic ridges or the subsoil thereof. Art 76(3)**

See the Convention, *see also* outer edge; rocks:

occurrence of the term: 76(1); 76(3);76(4)(a); 76(6)

# Figure 2 ‑ Profile of the Continental Margin



See: CONTINENTAL RISE; CONTINENTAL SHELF; CONTINENTAL SLOPE; FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE; DEEP OCEAN FLOOR; SEABED; SHELF, SUBSOIL and Appendix 2.

21 **CONTINENTAL RISE**

**A submarine feature which is that part of the continental margin lying between the continental slope and the deep ocean floor; simply called the Rise in the Convention.**

See the Convention:

occurrence of the term: 76(3)

See: CONTINENTAL MARGIN; CONTINENTAL SLOPE; DEEP OCEAN FLOOR; FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE

22 **CONTINENTAL SHELF**

**The continental shelf of a coastal State comprises the sea bed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.**

See the Convention, *see also* Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; continental margin; continental rise; continental slope:

archipelagic States: Art 48

artificial islands, installations and structures: Art 60(8); 80; 111(2); 147(2)(e)

charts and lists of geographical coordinates: Art 76(9); 84

coastal States rights: Art 77(3); 78; 79(4);81

delimitation: Art 76(10); 83; 134(4); 147(2)(e); 259; Annex 2/9

drilling: Art 81; 246(5)(b)

hot pursuit: Art 111(2); 111(4)

laying of cables and pipelines: Art 79(1); 79(2); 79(3); 79(4); 112(1)

legal status of superjacent waters and air space: Art 78

limits: Art 76(2); 76(5);76(6); 76(7); 76(8); 76(9); 84(1); 84(2); A2/3(1)(a); A2/4; A2/7; Annex 2/9

marine scientific research: Art 246; 247; 248; 249; 253

outer edge: Art 76(1)

payments and contributions derived from exploitation beyond 200 nautical miles: Art 82

pollution: Art 79(2); 210(5); 216(1)(a)

superjacent waters: Art 78

use of the term: Art 76

See: CONTINENTAL MARGIN, OUTER LIMIT

23 **CONTINENTAL SLOPE**

**That part of the continental margin that lies between the shelf and the rise. Simply called the slope in Art. 76(3)**

See the Convention:

occurrence of the term: Art 76(3); 76(4)(a)(i); 76(4)(a)(ii); 76(4)(b)

See: CONTINENTAL MARGIN; CONTINENTAL SHELF; CONTINENTAL RISE; DEEP OCEAN FLOOR and FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE

24 **DANGER TO NAVIGATION**

**Any feature or condition that might hinder, obstruct, endanger or otherwise constitute danger to safe navigation.**

See the Convention:

navigation or overflight: Art 24(2); 44; 225

25 **DEEP OCEAN FLOOR**

**The surface lying at the bottom of the deep ocean with its oceanic ridges, beyond the continental margin.**

See the Convention, *see also* seabed and subsoil:

occurrence of the term: Art 76(3)

See: CONTINENTAL MARGIN; OCEANIC RIDGE; SEABED; SUBMARINE RIDGE and SUBSOIL

26 **DELIMITATION**

**The line of the maritime boundary between opposite or adjacent coastal States**

See the Convention, *see also* opposite or adjacent coasts:

continental shelf: Art 76(10); 83; 134(4);147(2)(e); 259; Annex 2/9

disputes regarding: Art 298(1)(a)(i);298(1)(a)(iii); 259; Annex 2/9

exclusive economic zone: Art 74; 75(1); 147(2)(e); 259

internal waters of archipelagic States: Art 50

special circumstances or historic title: Art 15

territorial sea: 15; 16(1); 60(8); 147(2)(e); 259

See: MARITIME DELIMITATION

27 **DELTA**

**An area of alluvial deposit, usually triangular in outline, near the mouth of a river .**

See the Convention:

straight baselines: Art 7(2)

See: BASELINE and LOW‑WATER LINE

28 **DUE PUBLICITY**

**Notification of a given action for general information through appropriate authorities within a reasonable amount of time in a suitable manner. Used in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

See the Convention, *see also* due notice:

charts and lists of geographical coordinates: Art 16(2); 47(9); 75(2); 76(9); 84(2)

coastal States’ laws *re* innocent passage: Art 21(3)

coastal States’ laws *re* pollution: Art 42(3); 211(3)

laws of States bordering straits *re* transit passage: Art 42(3)

sea lanes and traffic separation schemes: Art 22(4); 41(2); 41(6); 53(7); 53(10)

In addition to notification to concerned States through diplomatic channels, more immediate dissemination to mariners may be achieved by passing the information directly to national Hydrographic Offices for inclusion in their Notices to Mariners.

See: BASELINE; CHART; GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES; TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

29 **ELLIPSOID**

**The Ellipsoid is a geometric shape that closely approximates the shape of the Geoid. It is a smooth mathematical surface upon which it is possible to perform exact mathematical calculations that would not be practical on the Geoid with its complex, irregular shape.**

There are several reference ellipsoids. Some approximate the Geoid on a global basis, while others approximate it over particular geographic regions. The coordinates of any given point on the surface of the Earth will vary according to the reference ellipsoid that is in use. The process of converting coordinates from one reference ellipsoid to another is known as transformation. Transformation parameters are available for most reference ellipsoids.

See: GEOID

30 **ENCLOSED or SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS**

**A gulf, basin, or sea surrounded by two or more States and connected to another sea or the ocean.**

See the Convention, *see also* geographically disadvantaged States:

States bordering: Art 70(2); 123

use of the term: Art 122

31 **EQUIDISTANCE LINE**

See: MEDIAN LINE

32 **ESTUARY**

**That portion of a stream influenced by the tide of the body of water into which it flows. A bay, as the mouth of a river, where the tide meets the river current.**

See the Convention:

pollution: Art 1(1)(4); 207(1)

See: BAY; RIVER; DELTA

33 **EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)**

**The exclusive economic zone is an area, not exceeding 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, subject to a specific legal regime established in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the coastal state has certain rights and jurisdiction.**

See the Convention: Part V Art 55 to 75, *see also* artificial islands; breadth; delimitation; dumping; opposite or adjacent coasts; violations.

34 **FACILITIES (NAVIGATIONAL)**

See the Convention:

navigational: Art 21(1)(b)

See: AID TO NAVIGATION

35 **FACILITIES (PORT)**

See the Convention:

port: Art 18(1)(a); 18(1)(b); 25(2)

See: HARBOUR WORKS

36 **FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE**

**In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the foot of the continental slope shall be determined as the point of maximum change of gradient at its base.**

See the Convention:

foot of continental slope: Art 76(4)(b)

It is the point where the continental slope meets the continental rise or, if there is no rise, the deep ocean floor.

The two methods laid down in Art. 76(4) for determining the outer limit of the continental shelf depend upon the foot of the continental slope.

See: CONTINENTAL RISE; CONTINENTAL SHELF; CONTINENTAL SLOPE

37 **GEOID**

**A geoid is a three dimensional surface of equal gravitational acceleration (equipotential). Although there are an infinite number of these equipotential surfaces for the Earth, ‘The Geoid’ is often used to describe the equipotential surface that best corresponds with mean sea level***.*

See: ELLIPSOID

38 **GEODESIC**

**The shortest line on a mathematically derived surface, between two points on that surface. A geodesic line on a reference spheroid is also called a geodetic line.**

The geodesic is one of two types of line (the other being the loxodrome) for defining ‘straight line’ segments of a maritime jurisdictional limit – the type cartographic projection used for the map or chart will determine whether the lines plots ‘straight lines’; for example a loxodrome will plot as a straight line on a Mercator projection hydrographic chart but a geodesic will be a curved line on that chart.

See: BASELINE, LOXODROME, STRAIGHT LINE, and ELLIPSOID

39 **GEODETIC DATA**

**Parameters defining geodetic or astronomical reference systems and their mutual relations; horizontal, vertical and/or three dimensional coordinates of points referred to such systems; observations of high precision from which such coordinates may be derived; ancillary data such as gravity, deflections of the vertical or geoid separation at points or areas referred to such systems.**

See the Convention: Art 76(9)

See: GEODETIC DATUM; GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEMS

40 **GEODETIC DATUM (see Section 2.4)**

**An official, fully-defined, spatial reference system or surface to which measurements and/or coordinates upon the Earth may be defined and related.**

See the Convention:

geodetic datum: Art 16(1); 47(8); 75(1); 84(1)

See: BASELINE; GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES; GEODETIC DATA; GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEMS

41 **GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEMS (see Section 2.3)**

A geodetic reference system is defined by specifying an ellipsoid of rotation (also termed a spheroid by Anglo‑U.S. Geodesists) which requires:

a) Semi‑axis major and flattening

or

b) Semi‑axis major and second zonal gravity harmonic (J)

The second alternative has been adopted by the IAG (they also specify the earth's gravitational constant, GM, and the angular velocity, W) but the two definitions are equivalent in practice.

Points at zero geodetic height lie on the surface of the ellipsoid, while other points are projected down (by the amount of their geodetic height) to the feet of normals to the ellipsoid.

Coordinates are three‑dimensional Cartesians referred to an origin at the centre of the spheroid with the Z‑axis along the axis of symmetry, or geodetic geographicals with an associated geodetic height.

See: GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES; GEODETIC DATA and GEODETIC DATUM

42 **GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**

**A system of spherical coordinates for defining the positions of points on the Earth.**

See the Convention, *see also* charts:

archipelagic baselines: Art 47(8); 47(9)

continental shelf: Art 84

deposited with the Secretary-General of the Authority: Art 84(2); 134(3)

deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations: Art 16(2); 47(9); 75(2); 84(2)

exclusive economic zone: Art 75

territorial sea: Art 16

43 **GREAT CIRCLE**

**A Great Circle is a circle on a surface of a sphere, where the centre of the circle is coincident with the centre of the sphere.**

The shortest distance between two points on the surface of a sphere is defined by the segment of the Great Circle that passes through those two points.

See: GEODESIC, LOXODROME

44 **HARBOUR WORKS**

**Permanent manmade structures built along the coast which form an integral part of the harbour system such as jetties, moles, quays or other port facilities, coastal terminals, wharves, breakwaters, sea walls, etc.**

See the Convention:

ports: Art 11

See: BASELINE; PORT

45 **HISTORIC BAY**

**Historic bays are those over which the coastal State has publicly claimed and continuously exercised jurisdiction and this jurisdiction has been accepted by other States. Historic bays need not match the definition of “bay” contained in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

See the Convention:

historic bays: Art 10(6); 298(1)(a)(i)

historic title: Art 15; 298(1)(a)(i)

46 **HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY**

**A survey having for its principal purpose the determination of data relating to bodies of water. A hydrographic survey may consist of the determination of one or several of the following classes of data: depth of the water; configuration and nature of the bottom; directions and force of current; heights and times of tides and water stages; and location of topographic features and fixed objects for survey and navigation purposes.**

See the Convention:

hydrographic survey: Art 21(1)(g); 40

survey: Art 19(2)(j); 54

See: BASELINE; GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

47 **INSTALLATION (OFF-SHORE)**

**Manmade structure usually built for exploration or exploitation of marine resources, marine scientific research, tide observation, etc.**

See the Convention, *see also* artificial islands; due notice; offshore; structures:

baseline determinations: Art 7(4); 47(4)

coastal State: Art 19(2)(k); 21(1)(b)

continental shelf: Art 79(4); 80; 111(2); 246(5)(c)

cooperation in the construction and improvement of means of transport: Art 129

exclusive economic zone: Art 56(1)(b)(i); 60; 79(4); 246(5)(c)

high seas: Art 87(1)(d)

inquiries into damage to: Art 94(7)

legal status: 60(8); 80; 147(2)(e); 259

marine scientific research: Art 246(5)(c); 249(1)(a); 249(1)(g); 258; 259; 260; 261; 262

meaning of innocent passage: Art 19(2)(k)

pollution from: Art 145(a); 194(3)(c); 194(3)(d); 208(1); 209(2); 214

removal: Art 60(3); 147(2)(a)

safety zones: Art 60(4); 60(5); 60(6); 60(7); 111(2); 147(2)(c); 260

unauthorized broadcasting on the high seas: Art 109

used for activities in the Area: Art 147(2); 147(2)(a); 147(2)(b); 147(2)(c); 147(20(d); 147(2)(e); 153(5); 209(2)

48 **INTERNAL WATERS**

**Waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea.**

See the Convention, *see also* innocent passage:

archipelagic States: Art 50

delimitation: Art 10(4); 35(a); 50

entry into *or* exit from: Art 18(1); 25(2); 27(2); 27(5); 28(3)

hot pursuit: Art 111(1)

pollution: Art 211(3); 218(1); 218(2); 218(3); 218(4)

regime: Art 7(3); 8(2); 10(4)

sovereignty: Art 2(1)

use of term: Art 8(1)

See: BASELINE; BAY; COASTLINE; LOW‑WATER LINE; HISTORIC BAY; INSTALLATIONS (OFF‑SHORE); RIVER

49 **INTERNATIONAL NAUTICAL MILE**

**A unit of length equal to 1,852 metres. This value was approved by the International Hydrographic Conference of 1929 and has been adopted by nearly all maritime states..**

For general navigational purposes, the International Nautical Mile can be approximated by one minute of latitude, which varies in length from 1843 to 1862 metres depending on latitude.

50 **ISLANDS**

**A naturally formed area of land surrounded by water at high tide.**

See the Convention, *see also* artificial islands; installations; structures; rocks

baselines: Art 6; 7(1); 13; 47(1); 47(4); 121(2)

installations *or* equipment not possessing the status of islands: Art 60(8); 147(2)(e); 246(5)(c); 259

limestone: Art 47(7)

*re* archipelagic States: Art 46; 47(1); 53(5)

*re* bays: Art 10(3)

regime of: Art 121

rocks: Art 121(3)

transit passage: Art 38(1)

with fringing reefs: Art 6; 47(7)

use of the term: 121(1)

See: ATOLL; BASELINE; CONTIGUOUS ZONE; CONTINENTAL MARGIN; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; ROCK; TIDE

51 **ISOBATH**

**A depth curve is a line connecting points of equal water depth.**

See the Convention: Art 76(5)

52 **LAND TERRITORY**

**Continental or insular land masses that are above water at high tide.**

See the Convention:

occurrence of the term; Art 2(1); 76(1); 121(2); 298(1)(a)(i)

See: TIDE

53 **LATITUDE**

**Angular distance from a primary great circle or plane. One of the coordinates**

**used to describe a position, the other being longitude.**

See: GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

54 **LONGITUDE**

**Angular distance along a primary great circle, from the adopted reference point. One of the coordinates used to describe a position, the other being latitude.**

See: GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

55 **LOW-TIDE ELEVATIONS**

**A low‑tide elevation is a naturally formed area of land which is surrounded by and above water at low tide but submerged at high tide**.

See the Convention:

Art 7(4); 13: 47(4)

Low‑tide elevation is a legal term for what are generally described as drying banks or rocks. On nautical charts they should be distinguishable from islands.

See: BANK BASELINE; ISLAND; LOW‑WATER LINE; CHART; TERRITORIAL SEA; INSTALLATION (OFF‑SHORE)

56 **LOW WATER LINE / LOW WATER MARK**

**The intersection of the plane of low water with the shore. The line along a coast, or beach, to which the sea recedes at low water.**

See the Convention: Art 5; 6; 7(2); 9; 10(3); 10(4); 10(5); 13(1)

It is the normal practice for the low water line to be shown as an identifiable feature on nautical charts unless the scale is too small to distinguish it from the high‑water line or where there is no tide so that the high and low‑water lines are the same.

The actual water level to which soundings on a chart are referred is known as Chart Datum.

See: BASELINE; CHART; TIDE and Appendix 2.

**57 LOXODROME**

**A Loxodrome or Rhumb Line is a true straight line on a Mercator chart, where it has a constant azimuth. It is one of two methods (the other being the Geodesic) used to define straight line segments of a territorial sea baseline.**

Projected back onto the reference ellipsoid, a loxodrome will generally differ from a geodesic constructed between the same two points.

See: GEODESIC; TERRITORIAL SEA BASELINE

58 **MARITIME DELIMITATION**

**The determination of a maritime boundary between States effected by agreement.**

See the Convention (delimitation), see also opposite or adjacent coasts:

continental shelf: Art 76(10); 83; 84(1); 134(4); 147(2)(e); 259; Annex 2/9

disputes regarding: Art 298(1)(a)(i); 298(1)(a)(iii); Annex 2/9

exclusive economic zone: Art 74; 75(1); 147(2)(e); 259

internal waters of archipelagic States: Art 50

special circumstances or historic title: Art 15

territorial sea: Art 15; 16(1); 60(8); 147(2)(e); 259

See: EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; BASELINE; CONTINENTAL SHELF; MEDIAN LINE; TERRITORIAL SEA

59 **MEDIAN LINE**

**A line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines of two or more States between which it lies.**

See the convention:

Art 15

See: ADJACENT COASTS; BASELINE; EQUIDISTANCE LINE; OPPOSITE COASTS; TERRITORIAL SEA

60 **MILE**

See: NAUTICAL MILE

61 **MOUTH (BAY)**

**The place of entrance to a bay from the ocean.**

See the Convention:

mouth of a bay: Art 10(2); 10(3); 10(4); 10(5)

Note: Art 10(4) and 10(5) are includes due their reference to the ‘natural entrance points’.

See: BASELINE; BAY; CLOSING LINE; ESTUARY and LOW‑WATER LINE

62 **MOUTH (RIVER)**

**The place of discharge of a stream (river) into the ocean.**

See the Convention:

mouth of a river: Art 9

Note: No limit is placed on the length of the line to be drawn.

See: BASELINE; CLOSING LINE; ESTUARY; LOW WATER LINE and RIVER

63 **NAUTICAL CHART**

**A special-purpose map or a specially compiled database from which a map is derived,** **that is issued officially by or on the authority of a government, authorized hydrographic office or other relevant government institution and is designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation.**

See: CHART

64 **NAUTICAL MILE (M)**

**A unit of distance used primarily in navigation. Nearly all of the maritime nations have accepted the international nautical mile of 1852 meters approved by the International Hydrographic Conference of 1929. The Convention mentions nautical miles in terms of specific distances of certain lines and limits – see Art 3; 10(4); 10(5); 33 (2); 47(2); 57; 76(1); 76(4); 76(5); 76(6);76(7); 76(8); 82(1)**

See: APPENDIX 2

65 **NAVIGATIONAL AID**

**An instrument, device, chart, method, etc., intended to assist in the navigation of a craft. An aid to navigation is a navigational aid but the latter expression should not be confused with the former which refers only to devices external to a craft.**

See: AID TO NAVIGATION

66 **NAVIGATIONAL CHART**

See: NAUTICAL CHART

67 **OCEANIC PLATEAU**

**A comparatively flat topped elevation of the seabed which rises steeply from the ocean floor on all sides, and is of considerable extent across the summit.**

See the Convention: Art 47(7)

See: ARCHIPELAGIC STATE; BASELINE

68 **OCEANIC RIDGES**

**A long elevation of the deep ocean floor with either irregular or smooth topography and steep sides, often separating ocean basins.**

See the Convention: Art 76(3)

Such ridges are not part of the continental margin

See: DEEP OCEAN FLOOR

69 **OPPOSITE COASTS**

**The geographical relationship of the coasts of two States facing each other.**

Maritime zones of States having opposite coasts may require boundary delimitation to avoid overlap.

70 **OUTER LIMIT**

**The extent to which a coastal State claims or may claim a specific jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

See the Convention:

anadromous stocks: Art 66

catadromous species: Art 67

contiguous zone: Art 33(1)

continental shelf: Art 76(5); 76(6); 76(7); 76(8); 76(9); 84(1); 84(2); 134(4); Annex 2/3(1)(a); Annex 2/4; Annex 2/7

exclusive economic zone: Art 57; 75(1)

roadsteads: Art 12

territorial sea: Art 4

See: BASELINE; CONTIGUOUS ZONE; CONTINENTAL MARGIN; CONTINENTAL SHELF; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; ISOBATH; TERRITORIAL SEA

71 **PARALLEL OF LATITUDE**

**A circle (or approximation of a circle) on the surface of the EARTH, parallel to the EQUATOR and connecting points of equal LATITUDE. Also called parallel of latitude.**

See: GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

72 **PLATFORM**

**In oceanographic terminology, any manmade structure (aircraft, ship, buoy, or tower) from or on which oceanographic instruments are suspended or installed. Structures which are erected on or over the seabed and subsoil for the purpose of exploring for, developing, removing and transporting resources therefrom**.

See the Convention: Art 1(5)

See: INSTALLATION (OFF‑SHORE)

73 **PORT**

**A place provided with terminal and transfer facilities for loading and discharging cargo or passengers, usually located in a harbour. The left side of a craft, facing forward. The opposite is starboard.**

See the Convention:

Criminal jurisdiction on board a foreign ship: Art 27(5)

delimiting the territorial sea: Art 11

duty to avoid adverse consequences: Art 225

equal treatment in maritime ports: Art 131

free zones and other customs facilities: Art 128

innocent passage in the territorial sea: Art 18(1)(a)

pollution from vessels: Art 211(3)

pollution measure enforcement: Art 218; 219; 220

rights of protection of the coastal state: Art 25(2)

See also Facilities

74 **REEF**

**A mass of rock or coral which either reaches close to the sea surface or is exposed at low tide, posing a hazard to navigation.**

See the Convention:

drying: Art 47(1); 47 (7)

fringing: Art 6: 47(7)

See: ATOLL; BASELINE; ISLAND and LOW‑WATER LINE

75 **RHUMB LINE**

See: LOXODROME

76 **RISE**

See: CONTINENTAL RISE

77 **RIVER**

**A relatively large natural stream of water.**

See the Convention, see also mouth of a river:

occurrence of the term: Art 66(1); 66(2); 66(3)(c); 124(1)(d)(i); 207(1)

78 **ROADSTEAD**

**An area near the shore where vessels are intended to anchor in a position of safety; usually in a shallow indentation of the coast.**

See the Convention: Art 12

In most cases roadsteads are not clearly delimited by natural geographical limits, and the general location is indicated by the position of its geographical name on charts. If Art. 12 applies, however, the limits must be shown on charts or must be described by a list of geographical coordinates.

See: CHART; GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES; MARITIME DELIMITATION; TERRITORIAL SEA

79 **ROCK**

**Under the Convention – Regime of Islands – rocks are by definition unable to sustain human habitation or economic life of their own and shall have no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf.**

There is no specific definition given in the Convention of the morphology or composition of a rock.

See the Convention, *see also* islands:

thickness of sedimentary rocks *re* continental margin: Art 76(4)(a)(i)

which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own: Art 121(3)

See: ISLAND; LOW‑TIDE ELEVATION

80 **ROUTEING SYSTEM**

**Any system of one or more routes or routeing measures aimed at reducing the risk of casualties; it includes traffic separation schemes, two‑way routes, recommended tracks, areas to be avoided, inshore traffic zones, roundabouts, precautionary areas and deep-water routes.**

See the Convention, see also traffic separation schemes:

occurrence of the term: Art 211(1)

81 **SAFETY AIDS**

See the Convention: Art 43(a)

See: AID TO NAVIGATION

82 **SAFETY ZONE**

**The area around an offshore installation within which vessels are prohibited from entering without permission. Special regulations protect installations within a safety zone and vessels of all nationalities are required to respect that zone.**

See the Convention, see also due notice:

artificial islands, installations and structures: Art 60(4); 60(5); 60(6); 60(7)

seabed mining operations: Art 147(2)(c)

scientific research: Art 260

violation in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf: Art 111(2)

See: INSTALLATION (OFF‑SHORE)

83 **SCALE**

**The ratio between a distance on a chart or map and a distance between the same two points measured on the surface of the earth (or other body of the Universe).**

Note: In the case of charts using the Mercator projection the nominal scale given in the title block is only accurate at the parallel of latitude specified in that title block.

See: CHART

84 **SEABED**

**The top of the surface layer of sand, rock, mud or other material lying at the bottom of the sea and immediately above the subsoil.**

See the Convention:

occurrence of the term: Art 2(2); 49; 56(3); 76(1); 76(3); 77(4); 194(3)(c)

Note: some of the references use the term bed rather than seabed.

See: AREA; CONTINENTAL SHELF; DEEP OCEAN FLOOR; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; SUBSOIL

85 **SEDIMENTARY ROCK**

**Rocks formed by accumulation of sediment in water (aqueous deposits) or from air (eolian deposits). The sediments may consist of rock fragments or particles of various sizes (conglomerate, sandstone, shale); of the remains or product of animals or plant (certain limestones and coal); of the product of chemical action or of evaporation (salt, gypsum, etc.); or of a mixture of these materials.**

See the Convention: Art 76(4)(a)(i)

86 **SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA**

See: ENCLOSED SEA, Art. 122

87 **SHELF**

**Geologically an area adjacent to a continent or around an island extending from the low‑water line to the depth at which there is usually a marked increase of slope to greater depth**.

See: CONTINENTAL SHELF

88 **SLOPE**

See: CONTINENTAL SLOPE

89 **SPUR**

**A subordinate elevation, ridge or rise projecting outward from a larger feature.**

See the Convention:

occurrence of the term: Art 76(6)

See: BANK; CAP; CONTINENTAL SHELF; SUBMARINE RIDGE

## 90 STRAIGHT BASELINE

See: BASELINE

91 **STRAIGHT LINE**

**Mathematically the line of shortest distance between two points in a specified space or on a specified surface.**

See: BASELINE; CONTINENTAL MARGIN and CONTINENTAL SHELF

92 **STRAITS (used for international navigation)**

**Geographically, a narrow passage between two landmasses or islands or groups of islands connecting one part of the high seas or an exclusive economic zone and another part of the high seas or an exclusive economic zone.**

See the Convention: Part III

Only straits "used for international navigation" are classified as "international straits", and only such straits fall within the specific regime provided in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

93 **STRUCTURE**

See: INSTALLATION (OFF‑SHORE)

94 **SUBMARINE CABLE**

**An assembly of wires or fibres, or a wire rope or chain, which has been laid underwater or buried beneath the sea floor**

See the Convention, cables and pipelines (submerged):

archipelagic State: Art 51(2)

continental shelf: Art 79

exclusive economic zone: 58(1)

existing submarine cables in archipelagic state waters: Art 51

high seas: Art 87(1)(c); 112; 113; 114; 115

settlement of disputes: 297(1)(a)

See: SUBMARINE PIPELINES

95 **SUBMARINE PIPELINES**

**A string of interconnected pipes used for the transport of matter, nowadays mainly oil and gas.**

See the Convention, cables and pipelines (submerged):

continental shelf: Art 79

exclusive economic zone: 58(1)

high seas: Art 87(1)(c); 112; 113; 114; 115

settlement of disputes: 297(1)(a)

See: SUBMARINE CABLES

96 **SUBMARINE RIDGES**

**An elongated elevation of the sea floor, with either irregular or relatively smooth topography and steep sides which constitutes part of the continental margin of a coastal State under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

See the Convention:

Submarine: Art 76(6)

See: CONTINENTAL SHELF

97 **SUBSOIL**

**All naturally occurring matter lying beneath the seabed**.

See the Convention:

occurrences of the term: Preamble (6); Art 1(1)(1); 2(2); 34; 49(2); 56(1)(a); 56(3); 76(1); 76(3); 77(4); 85; 195(3)(c)

See: AREA; CONTINENTAL SHELF; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; SEABED

98 **SUPERJACENT WATERS**

**The waters lying immediately above the seabed up to the surface.**

See the Convention:

coastal State jurisdiction over: Art 56(1)(a)

legal status: Art 78; 135

of the Area: Art 135; 155(2)

See: AREA; CONTINENTAL SHELF; EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE; SEABED; WATER COLUMN

99 **TERRITORIAL SEA**

**A belt of water of a defined breadth but not exceeding 12 nautical miles measured seaward from the territorial sea baseline. In terms of the Convention the territorial sea is the zone of coastal State sovereignty, not only of the water column but also the airspace above that zone and the seabed and subsoil below.**

See the Convention, *also see* air space; artificial islands; baselines; charts; conservation management of living resources; delimitation; due publicity; fishing; foreign ships or vessels; geographical co-ordinates; historic title: hot pursuit; innocent passage; jurisdiction; opposite or adjacent coasts; outer limits; sea lanes; submarines; tankers; traffic separation schemes:

legal status: Art 2

limits: Art 3; 4; 12

marine scientific research: Art 245; 259

sovereignty of the coastal State: Art 2(1); 211(4); 245

See: ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES; BASELINE; ISLANDS; LOW‑TIDE ELEVATIONS; NAUTICAL MILE; ROADSTEADS

100 **THALWEG**

**The line joining the lowest points of a valley throughout its length. Sometimes called valley line**

Defined also as the line of maximum depth along a river channel. It may also refer to the line of maximum depth along a river valley or in a lake. Also the middle of the chief navigable channel of a waterway which constitutes a boundary line between states

101 **TIDE**

**The periodic rise and fall of the surface of the oceans and other large bodies of water due principally to the gravitational attraction of the Moon and Sun on a rotating earth.**

102 **TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME**

**A routeing measure aimed at the separation of opposing streams of traffic by appropriate means and by the establishment of traffic lanes.**

See: ROUTEING SYSTEM

103 **WATER COLUMN**

**A vertical continuum of water from sea surface to seabed.**

See: SEABED; SUPERJACENT WATERS

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