

On November 20, 1976, the Governments of the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Panama signed an agreement delimiting maritime boundaries in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Instruments of ratification were exchanged and the treaty entered into force on November 30, 1977. The full text is as follows:

The Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Panama,

Aware of the fact that international cooperation and reciprocity afford the best means of resolving matters of mutual concern among friendly nations, especially when there are natural bonds of proximity between them;

Agreeing on the feasibility and necessity of taking steps to demarcate their marine and submarine areas in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea;

Informed regarding the preservation of sovereignty and jurisdiction in the marine areas germane to each country, and the unencumbered, expeditious communication through them;

Mutually concerned about the adoption of appropriate measures for the preservation, conservation and utilization of the resources which exist in those waters, and for the prevention, control and elimination of pollution therein; and

Thoroughly aware of the feasibility of states' adopting measures in keeping with the new developments relating to the Law of the Sea,

Have resolved to conclude a treaty, and have designated as their plenipotentiaries:

His Supreme Excellency the President of the Republic of Colombia [designating] His Excellency Dr. Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, the minister of foreign affairs;

His Supreme Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama [designating] His Excellency Mr. Aquilino Boyd, the minister of foreign relations;

Who, their respective full powers having been conveyed and found in satisfactory and proper order, have agreed upon the following:

Article I.

To stipulate as the boundary between their respective marine and submarine areas, regardless of the legal system that has been or may be established therein:

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 Cabo Tiburon (8°41'07.3" 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:

	North Latitude	West Longitude
Point A:	8°41'07.3"	77°21'50.9"
Point B:	9°09'00"	77°13'00"
Point C:	9°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:

	North Latitude	West Longitude
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 M:	11°00'00"	81°15'00"

B. In the Pacific:

1. The median line all 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 latitude 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:

	North Latitude	West Longitude
Point A:	7°12'39.3"	77°53'20.9"
Point B:	6°44'00"	78°18'00'
Point C:	6°28'00"	78°47'00"
Point D:	6°16'00"	79°03'00"
Point E:	6°00'00"	79°14'00"
Point F:	5°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.

Paragraph: The lines and points agreed upon have been shown on the nautical charts signed by the plenipotentiaries which are attached to this treaty as Annexes I and II, with the understanding that, in any event, the spirit of the treaty will prevail.

Article II.

To accept and respect the methods whereby each of the two nations is now exercising, or may in the future exercise its sovereignty, jurisdiction, vigilance, control or rights in the marine and submarine areas adjoining its coasts which have been delimited by virtue of this treaty, in accordance with the stipulations that each country has made or may make in the future, and with the regulations related to its own internal law.

Article III.

The Republic of Panama, in view of the great significance of the fact that the Republic of Colombia, as the country adjacent to the Great Gulf of Panama, has expressly acknowledged the status of the latter's historic bay, requests such acknowledgement of Colombia.

The Republic of Colombia, aware of the fact that its express acknowledgement of the status of the historic bay of the Great Gulf of Panama is highly significant to the incontestability of that status, declares that it does not object to the provisions made by the Republic of Panama in this respect by virtue of its Law No. 9 of 30 January 1956.

Article IV.

The Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Panama will give reciprocal recognition for freedom of navigation, innocent passage and free traffic, as the case may be, for their vessels sailing in the marine areas subject to their sovereignty, jurisdiction, vigilance or control. This recognition will be observed without detriment to the right of each of the two parties to specify maritime routes and systems for the division of traffic in their territorial seas, or to the observance of the regulations contained in the internal law of each party and the terms of international laws.

Article V.

To promote cooperation between the two nations in coordinating the measures for conservation applied by each in the marine areas subject to their sovereignty, jurisdiction, vigilance or control, particularly with regard to the species which move beyond their respective marine areas, taking into account for this purpose the recommendations of the competent agencies and the most reliable and up-to-date scientific data.

Such cooperation will not preclude the sovereign right of each nation to adopt whatever standards and regulations it may deem fitting within the realm of its respective jurisdiction.

Article VI.

Each of the parties expresses its determination to cooperate with the other, insofar as it is able, in implementing the most suitable measures for preventing, reducing and curbing any pollution of the marine environment that may affect the neighboring nation, regardless of the source thereof, coordinating insofar as possible the measures stipulated in the terms of its internal law for this purpose.

Article VII.

This treaty will be subjected for ratification to the constitutional procedures of the major contracting parties, and will go into effect when the instruments of ratification are exchanged, an act which will take place in Panama City.

In certification whereof, the plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty, in two copies, today, 20 November 1976, in the city of Cartagena, Republic of Colombia. Aquilino Boyd. Indalecio Lлевano Aguirre.