

Australia's Maritime Zones

Definition of Terms

Nautical mile (M) is a unit of distance equal to 1852 metres. This value was adopted by the International Hydrographic Conference in 1929 and was subsequently adopted by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. It is also the unit adopted for the purposes of Australian maritime legislation.

Convention means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 10 December 1982.

The following definitions should be read in conjunction with the diagram below.

TERRITORIAL SEA BASELINE (TSB)
The line from which the seaward limits of Australia's maritime zones are measured. The baseline is made up of the following components, each of which is dependent upon the shape of the coastline in any given locality:

Normal baseline corresponds with the low water line along the coast, including the coasts of islands. For Australian purposes, normal baseline corresponds to the level of Lowest Astronomical Tide. Under the Convention, low tide elevations which are defined as naturally formed areas of land surrounded by and above water at low tide but submerged at high tide may be used as normal baseline if they are wholly or partly within 12 nautical miles of the coast.

Straight baselines are a system of straight lines joining specified or discrete points on the low water line, usually known as straight baseline end points, which may be used in localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or where there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity. The line drawn between those points forms part of the TSB. The line drawn between those points forms part of the TSB.

River closing lines are straight lines drawn between the respective low water marks of the natural entrance points of rivers.

Bay closing lines are straight lines, not exceeding 24 nautical miles in length, drawn between the respective low water marks of the natural entrance points of bays. Under the Convention, the area of the bay must also be the greater than or equal to that of the area drawn by a semi-circle whose diameter is the length of the line closing the bay.

Waters on the landward side of the baseline are internal waters for the purposes of international law.

3M LIMIT: COASTAL WATERS (CW)

A belt of water between the limits of the Australian States and of the Northern Territory and a line 3 nautical miles seaward of the territorial sea baseline. Title to the subjacent seabed is vested in the adjacent State or Territory as if that seabed was in waters that formed part of that State or Territory.

NOTE: Given the small scale of this map, and of the insets and diagram, for the most part it has not been possible to differentiate between coastal waters and waters within the limits of a State or Territory.

12M LIMIT: TERRITORIAL SEA (TS)

A belt of water not exceeding 12 nautical miles in width measured from the territorial sea baseline. Australia's sovereignty extends to the territorial sea, its bed and subsoil, and to the air space above it. This sovereignty is exercised in accordance with international law and accordingly, is subject to the right of innocent passage for foreign ships. The territorial sea around certain islands in the Torres Strait is 3 nautical miles.

24M LIMIT: CONTIGUOUS ZONE (CZ)

A zone contiguous to the territorial sea, the outer limit of which does not exceed 24 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. In this zone, Australia may exercise control necessary to prevent and punish infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea.

200M LIMIT: EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

An area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea. The outer limit of the exclusive economic zone cannot exceed 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. In the EEZ, Australia has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing all natural resources of the waters superjacent to the sea-bed and of the sea-bed and its subsoil together with other activities such as the production of energy from water, currents and wind. Jurisdiction also extends to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures, marine scientific research, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The Australian EEZ is less than 200 nautical miles in certain areas subject to delimitation with other countries.

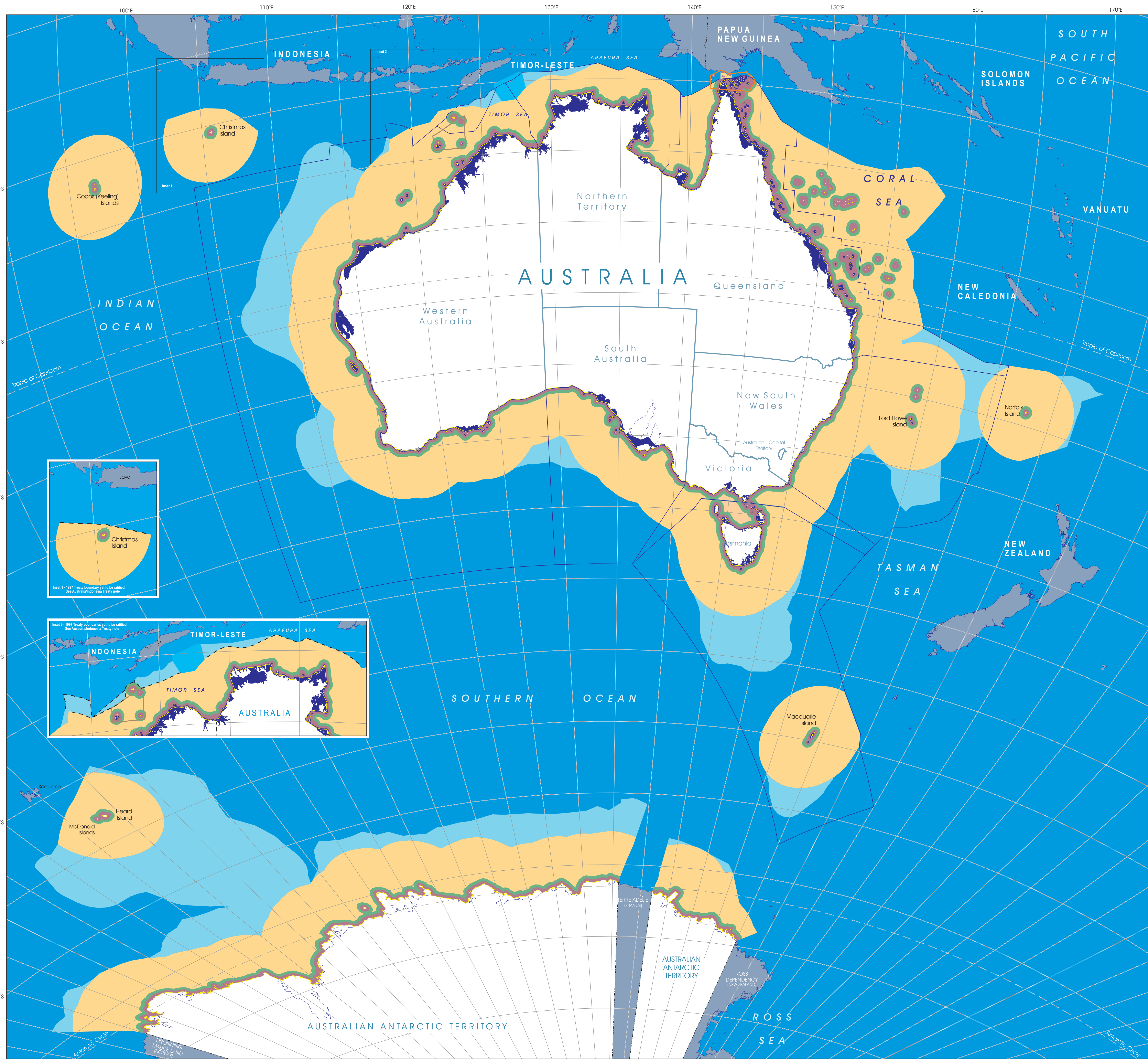
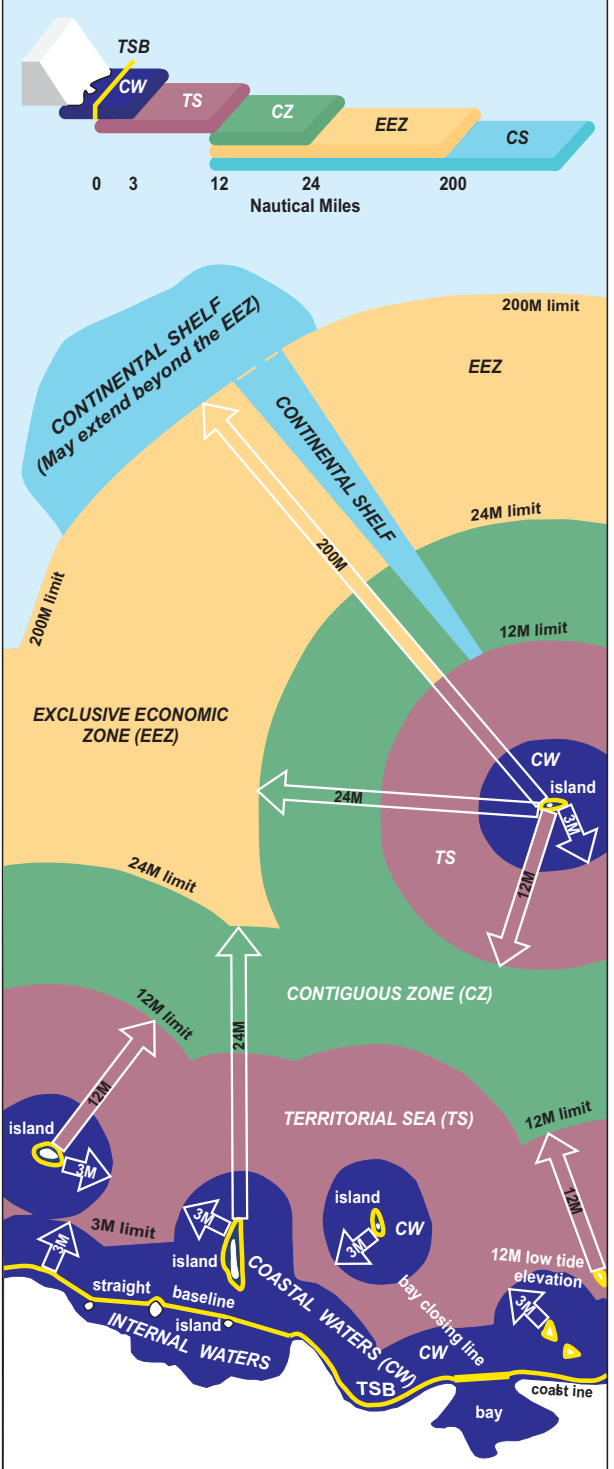
CONTINENTAL SHELF (CS)

The area of the seabed and subsoil which extends beyond the territorial sea to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. Also includes the natural prolongation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the outer edge of the continental margin as defined in Article 76 of the Convention. The continental shelf is largely co-extensive with the exclusive economic zone within 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baselines (there are certain areas between Australia and Indonesia and Australia and Papua New Guinea where they are not co-extensive).

Australia has sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the mineral and other non-living resources of the seabed and subsoil, together with sedentary organisms. In this area, Australia also has jurisdiction with regard to marine scientific research as well as other rights and responsibilities.

In order to support delimitation of the outer limit of the extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles as measured from the territorial sea baseline, Australia submitted details, together with supporting scientific information, to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) on 15 November 2004. The limits of the extended continental shelf beyond the exclusive economic zone, as depicted on this map, are as submitted for the consideration of the CLCS. In accordance with Australia's request, the CLCS has indicated that it will not consider the extended continental shelf appurtenant to the Australian Antarctic Territory for the time being.

DIAGRAM SHOWING RELATIONSHIP OF MARITIME FEATURES, LIMITS AND ZONES SEAWARD OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA BASELINE (NOT TO SCALE)



Disclaimer: This map diagrammatically depicts the location of the territorial sea baseline and the outer limits of Australia's maritime zones. The baseline and zones are established under the Sea and Submerged Lands Act 1973. This map also includes a representation of the limits to which the waters adjacent to each of the Australian States and of the Northern Territory are determined under the Coastal Waters (Northern Territory Powers) Act 1980 and the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967. In the event of an inconsistency between this map and the baselines and limits established under the legislation, the latter prevails. Users of this map should also be aware that, because the locations of these boundaries are subject to change and also because of the scale of this map, decisions should not be made by reference to this map alone. Except as required by law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss, damage, expense or cost (including any incidental or consequential loss or damage) incurred by any person or organisation arising out of use of or reliance on the map.

Australia's Maritime Boundaries

This map has been derived from Geoscience Australia's *Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB)* version 2.0 data which is a digital representation of Australia's territorial sea baseline and maritime limits & boundaries as established under the Sea and Submerged Lands Act 1973.

Geoscience Australia was also responsible for the survey work, data processing, compilation, interpretation and analysis to determine the necessary geological and geomorphological information required to support the delineation of the outer limit of the extended continental shelf - that portion of the continental shelf that extends beyond 200M from the Territorial Sea Baseline (TSB).

This map and the AMB data have been compiled by Geoscience Australia in consultation with other relevant Commonwealth Government agencies including the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Australian Hydrographic Office.

Australia also has a number of maritime boundary arrangements with other countries such as Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, France (New Caledonia and Kerguelen) and New Zealand. Australia has not entered into any delimitation arrangements with other countries in relation to maritime areas adjacent to the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT). For the purposes of this map the maritime boundaries adjacent to the AAT have been drawn back to the point of convergence even though Australia has valid claims beyond that point. The use of equidistant lines is not intended to prejudice future delimitation arrangements.

The maritime zones shown on this map are diagrammatic only. For more detailed information and data refer to the Geoscience Australia web site at <http://www.ga.gov.au>.

Maritime boundaries arrangements with neighbouring countries

AustralIndonesia Treaty
Australia and Indonesia signed a Treaty on 14 March 1997 which will settle a number of maritime boundaries between the two countries. These boundaries are depicted in insets 1 & 2. They relate to areas between continental Australia and the Indonesian archipelago and the area between the Australian Territory of Christmas Island and the Indonesian island of Java. The boundaries established by the Treaty will enter into force when both countries have ratified the Treaty. Those boundaries indicated in the insets will then replace certain boundaries depicted in the body of the map.

Maritime arrangements with neighbouring countries

Protected Zone
The Protected Zone established under the 1985 Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea for the purposes of protecting the traditional way of life and livelihood (including traditional fishing and freedom of movement) of Australians who are Torres Strait Islanders and of Papua New Guineans who live in the coastal area of Papua New Guinea in and adjacent to the Torres Strait. It was also established to protect and preserve the marine environment and the indigenous flora and fauna.

Memorandum of Understanding

Area subject to the 1974 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Regarding the Operations of Indonesian Traditional Fishermen in the Area of the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone.

Joint Petroleum Development Area

The Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) established under the Timor Sea Treaty between Australia and Timor-Leste entered into force on 2 April 2003. This Treaty is a provisional arrangement under Article 3(3) of the Convention permitting exploration and exploitation of the JPDA pending a permanent delimitation as Australia claims a continental shelf extending to the middle of the Timor Trough adjacent to this area.

Domestic maritime arrangements

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act Boundary

The picture frame boundaries used to determine the adjacency of offshore areas to the Australian States and Territories. The actual adjacent area for the purposes of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 consists of so much of the continental shelf as is determined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as lies within those boundaries. In relation to certain external territories, it also includes the territorial sea. Where as the text will fall on.

Australian Government
Geoscience Australia
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The Australian Government agency providing SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR THE NATION

EDITION 3 AUSTRALIA'S MARITIME ZONES

THE AUSTRALIAN MAP SERIES



MAP PROJECTION: Bonne with 134°E longitude and 30°S at projection centre
FRONT COVER PHOTO: Talla Caves, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia
Jim Mason, Geoscience Australia