

Copyright statement

This presentation was prepared for use at the IBRU training workshop
An Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delimitation
held in Durham on 11-13 September 2023.

The content of the presentation is copyright © of the author. The presentation may be used by workshop participants for non-commercial training purposes, subject to acknowledgement of the author and the workshop at which the presentation was originally made. All other uses of the presentation must be approved in advance by the copyright holder.

Questions concerning use of this presentation should be directed in the first instance to:

Liz Buxton, External Relations & Marketing Manager, IBRU,
Department of Geography, Durham University DH1 3LE, UK

Tel: +44 191 334 1965 ♦ Fax: +44 191 334 1962 ♦ Email: e.a.buxton@durham.ac.uk

Thank you.



Modifying equidistance

IBRU Training Workshop No. 71

**An Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary
Delimitation**

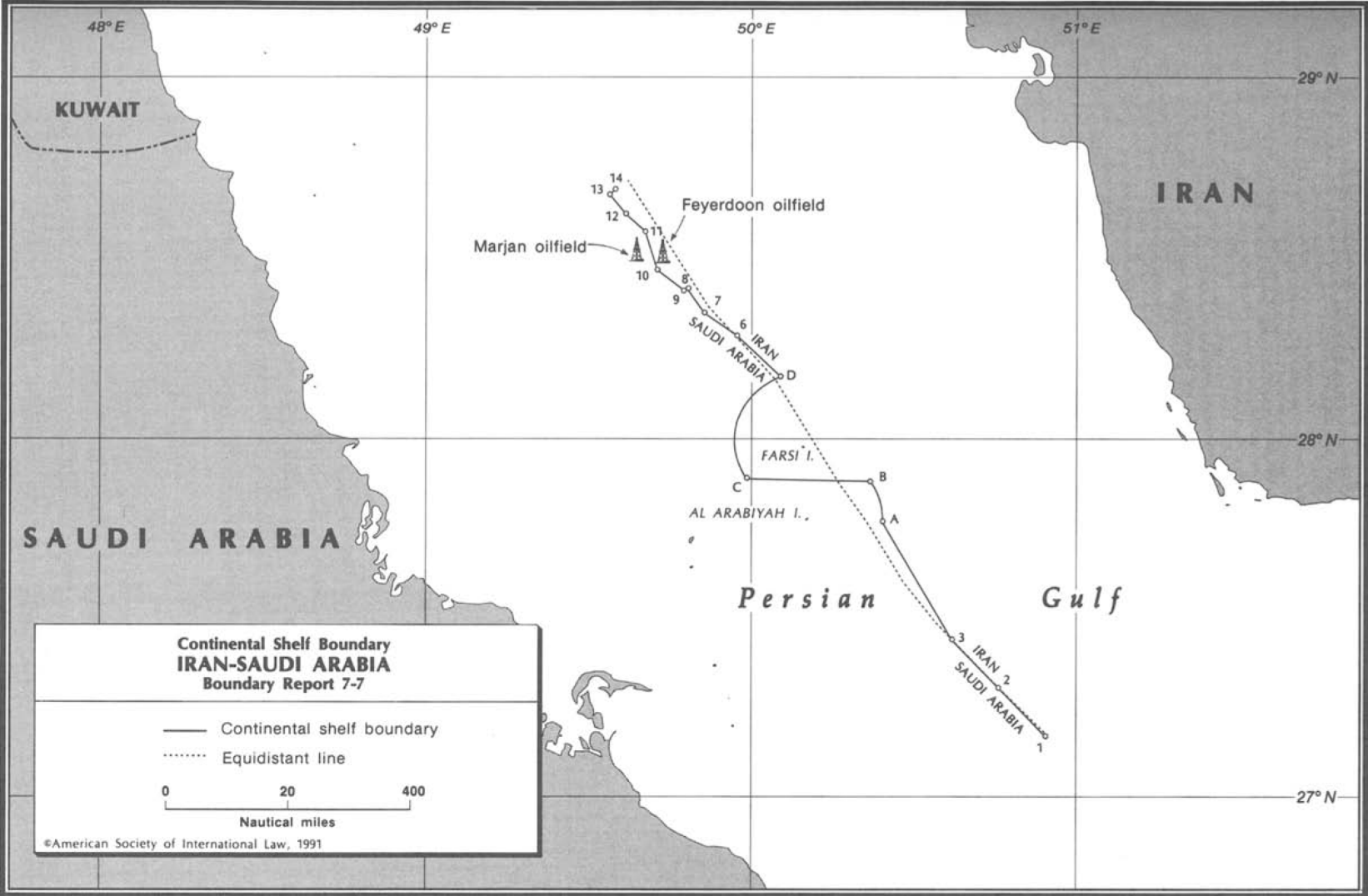
Durham, UK, 12 September 2023

Coalter G. Lathrop

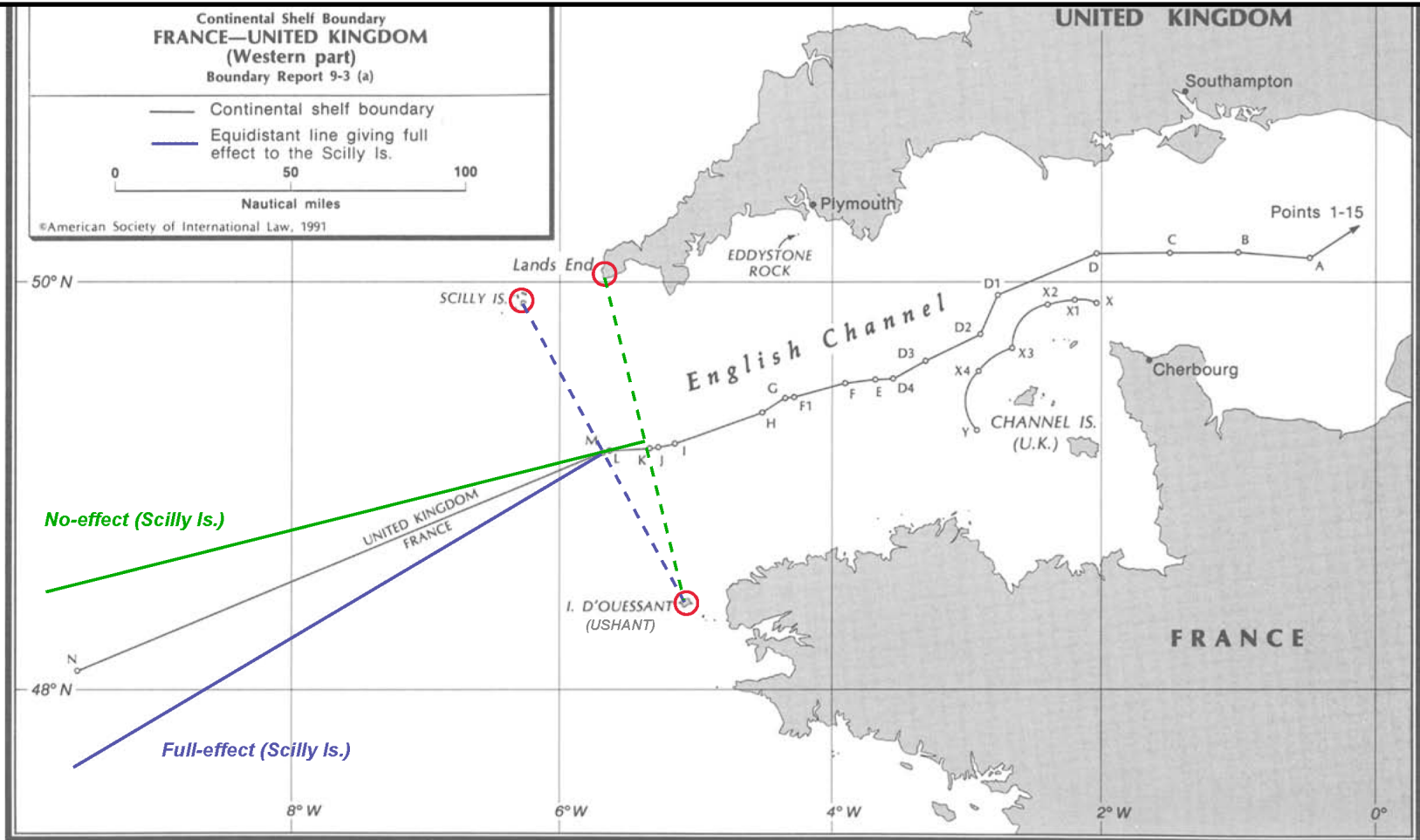
+1.202.905.5820

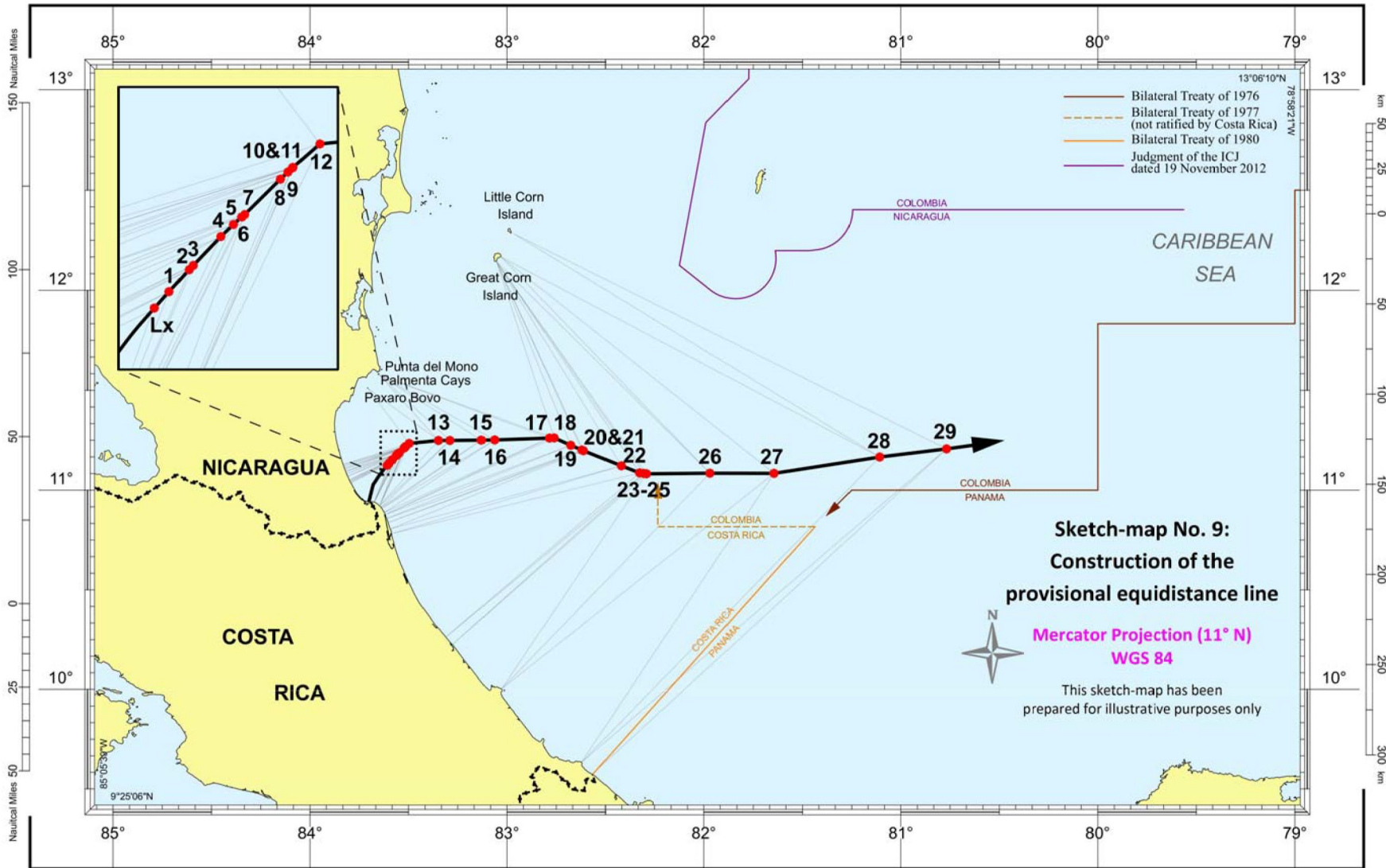
sovereigngeographic.com

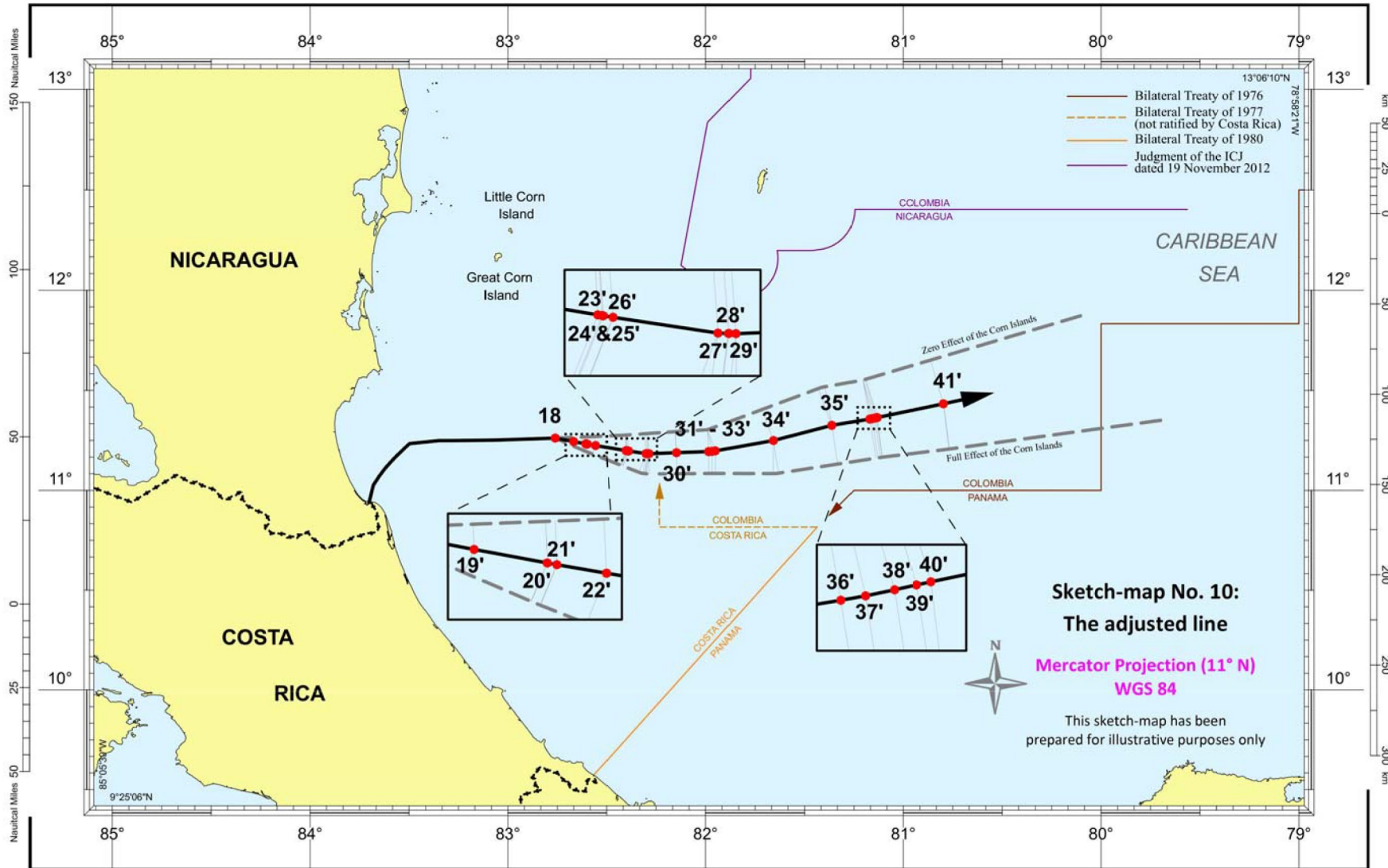


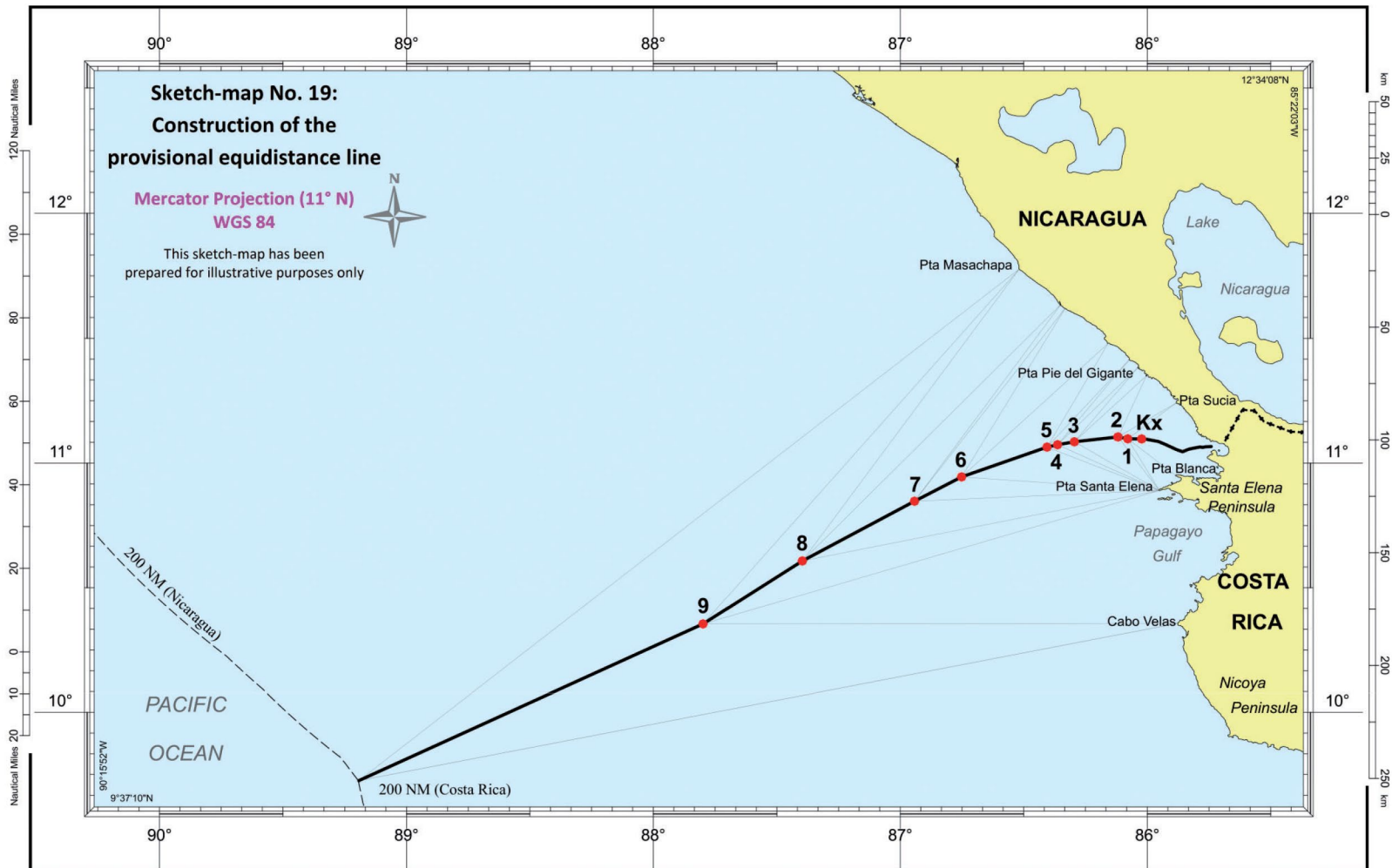


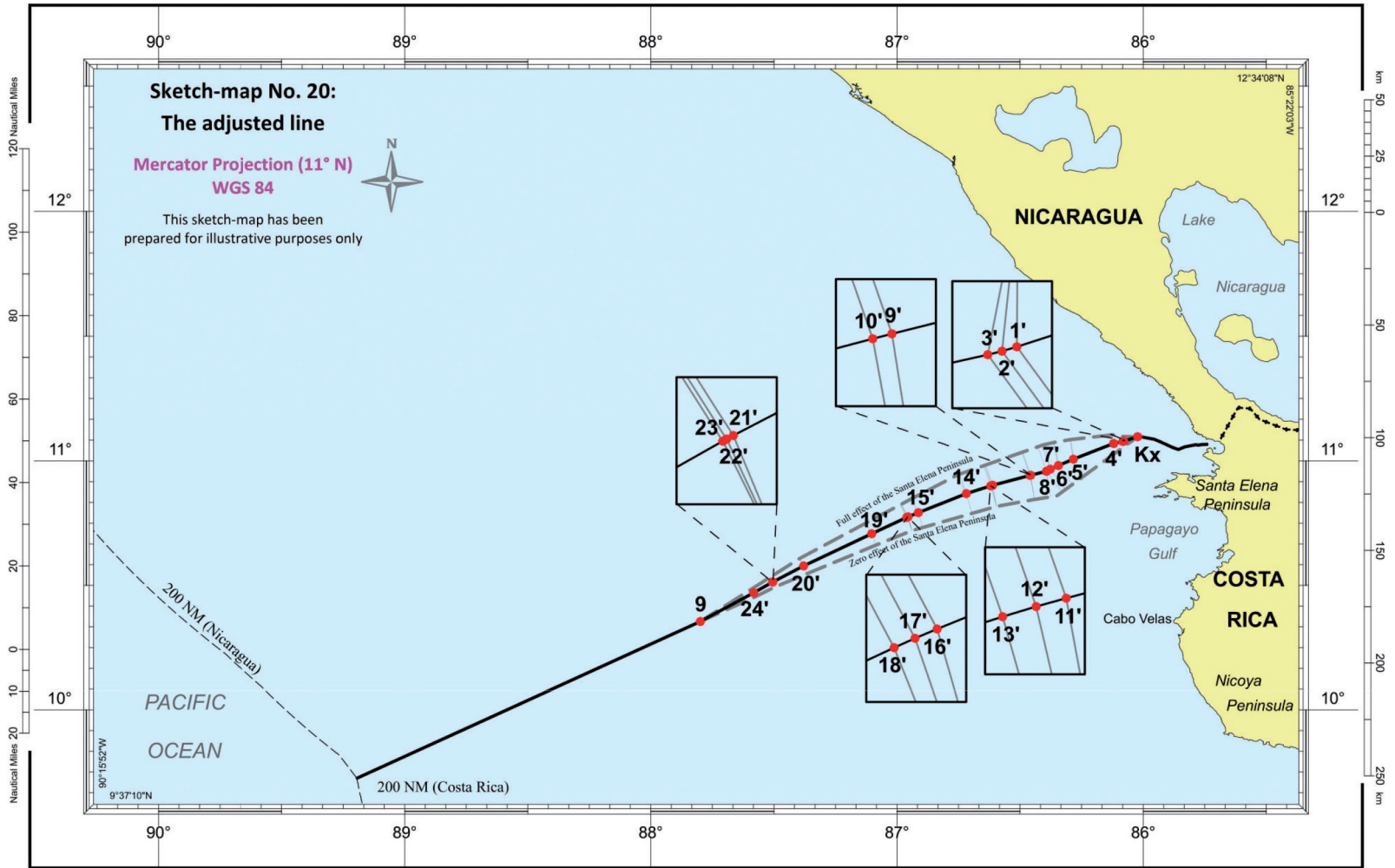
From Point M, ... the boundary follows the line which bisects the area formed by, on its south side, the equidistance line delimited from Ushant and the Scilly Isles [full-effect] and, on its north side, the equidistance line delimited from Ushant and Land's End [no-effect], that is, without the Scilly Isles.
(U.K./France, para 254 (1977))

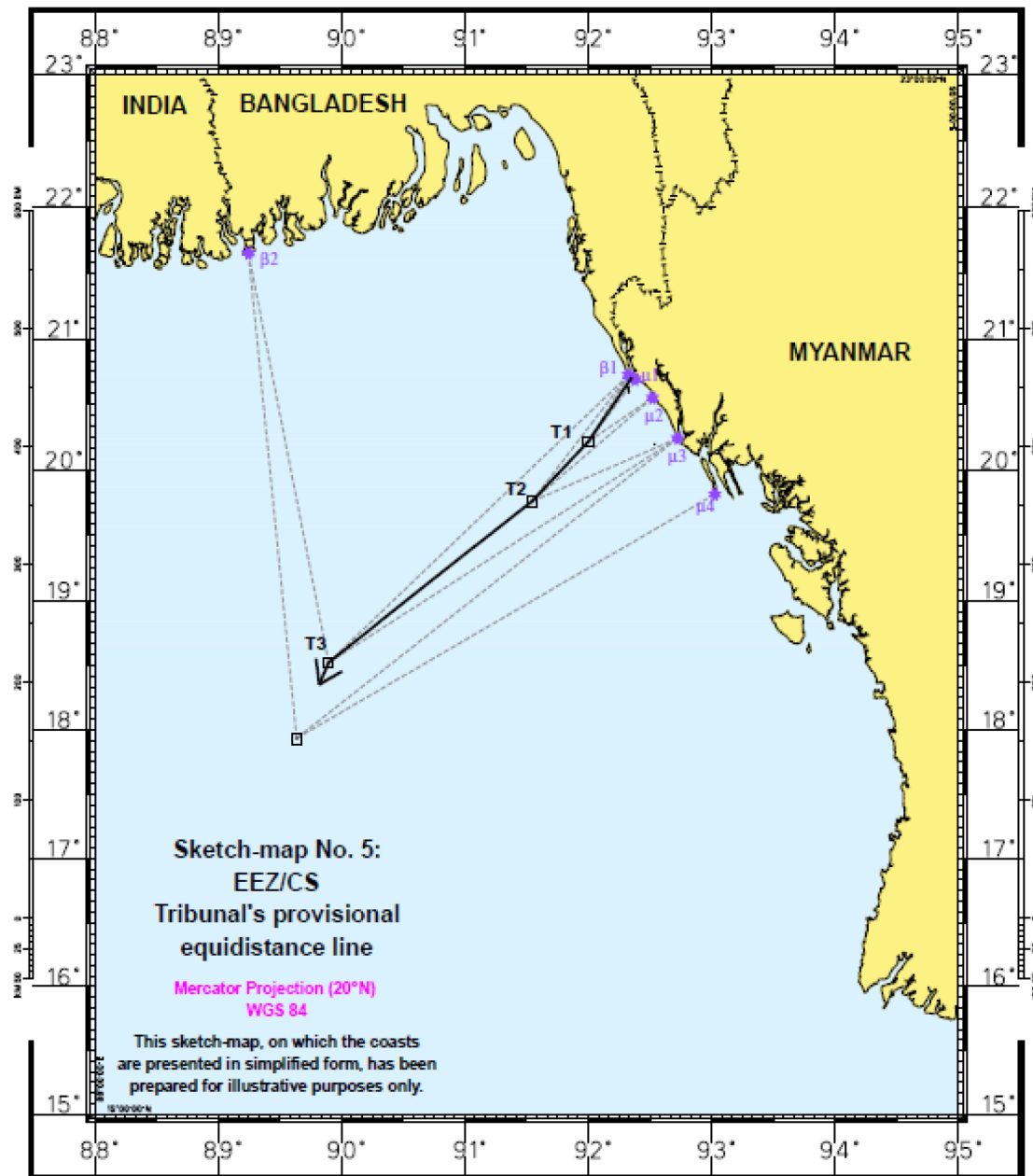


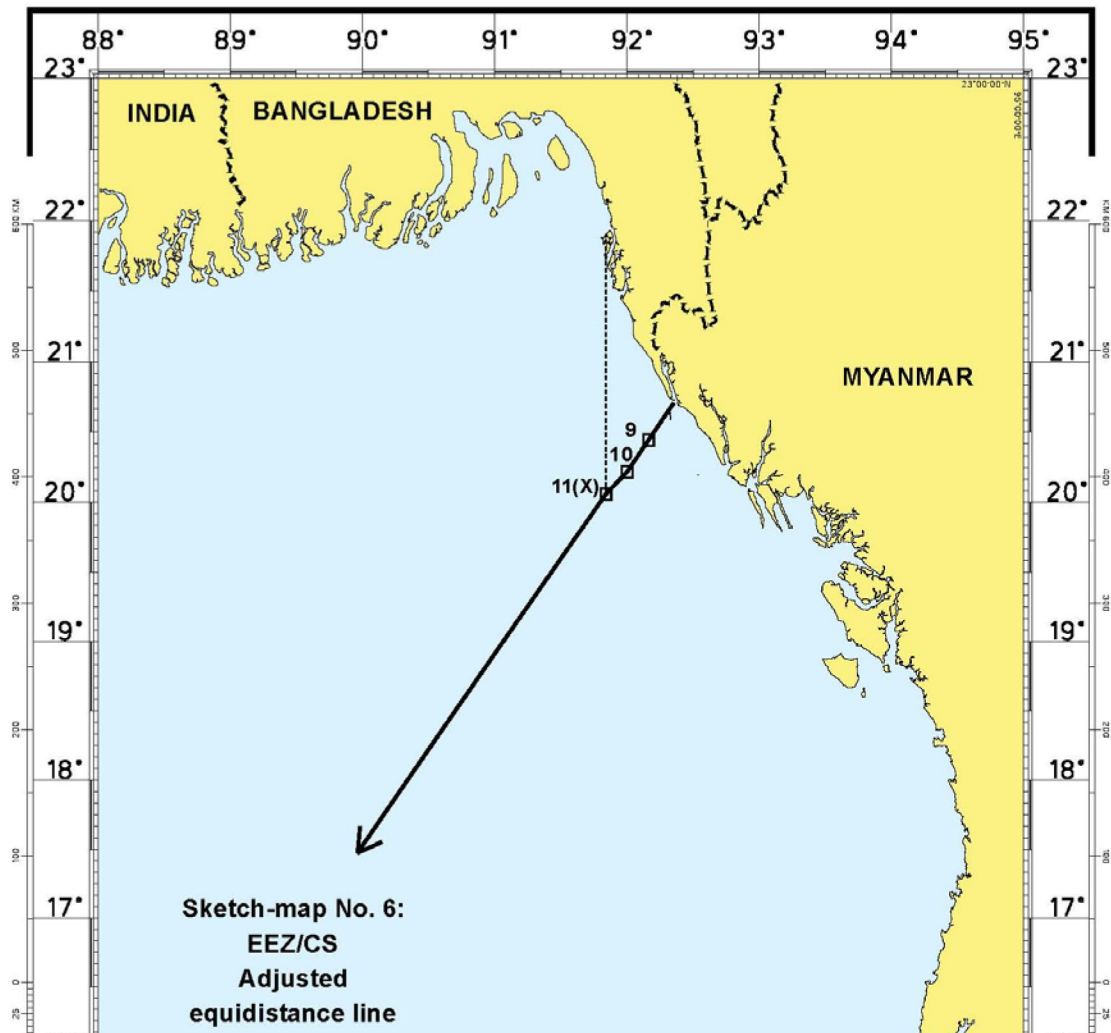






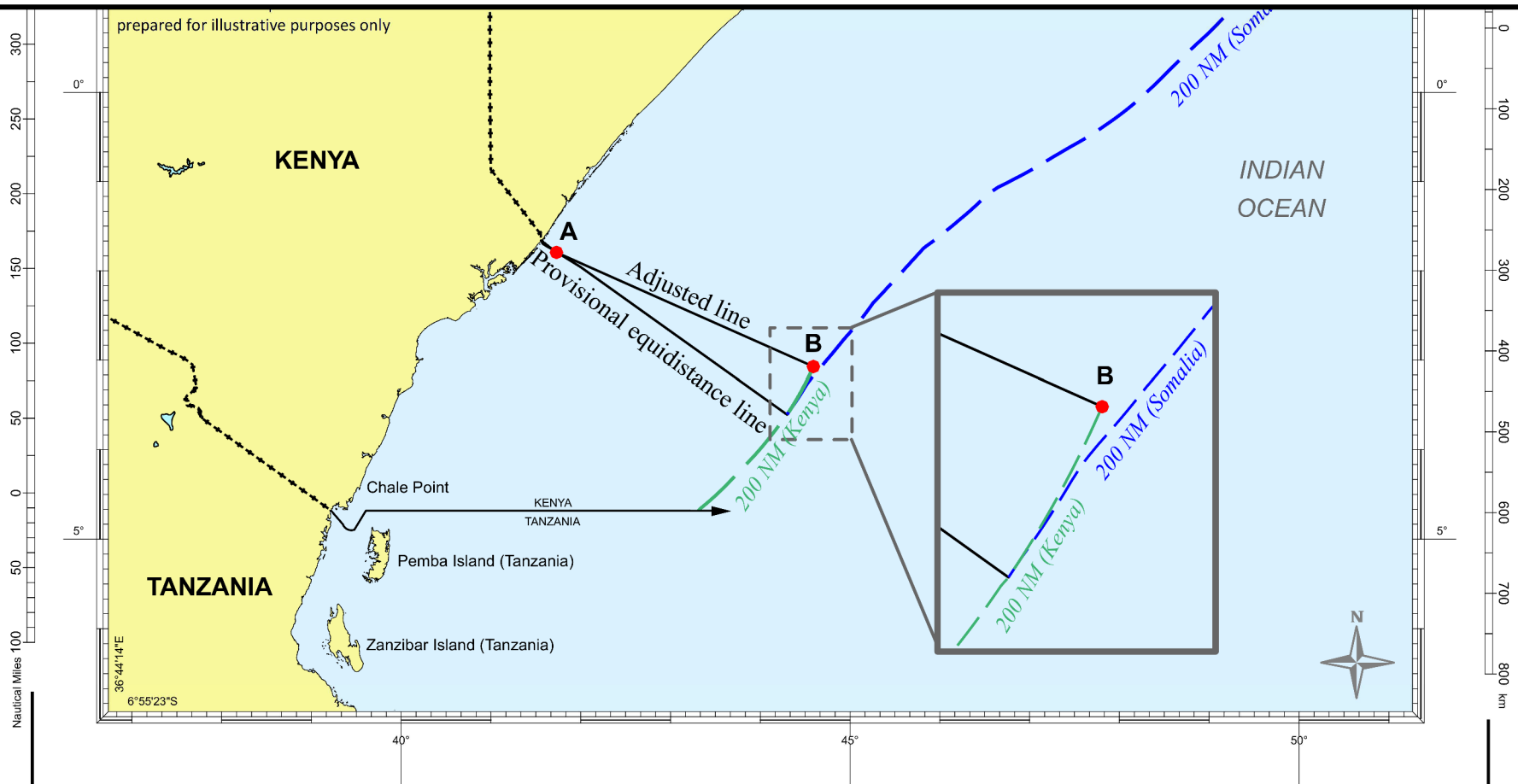






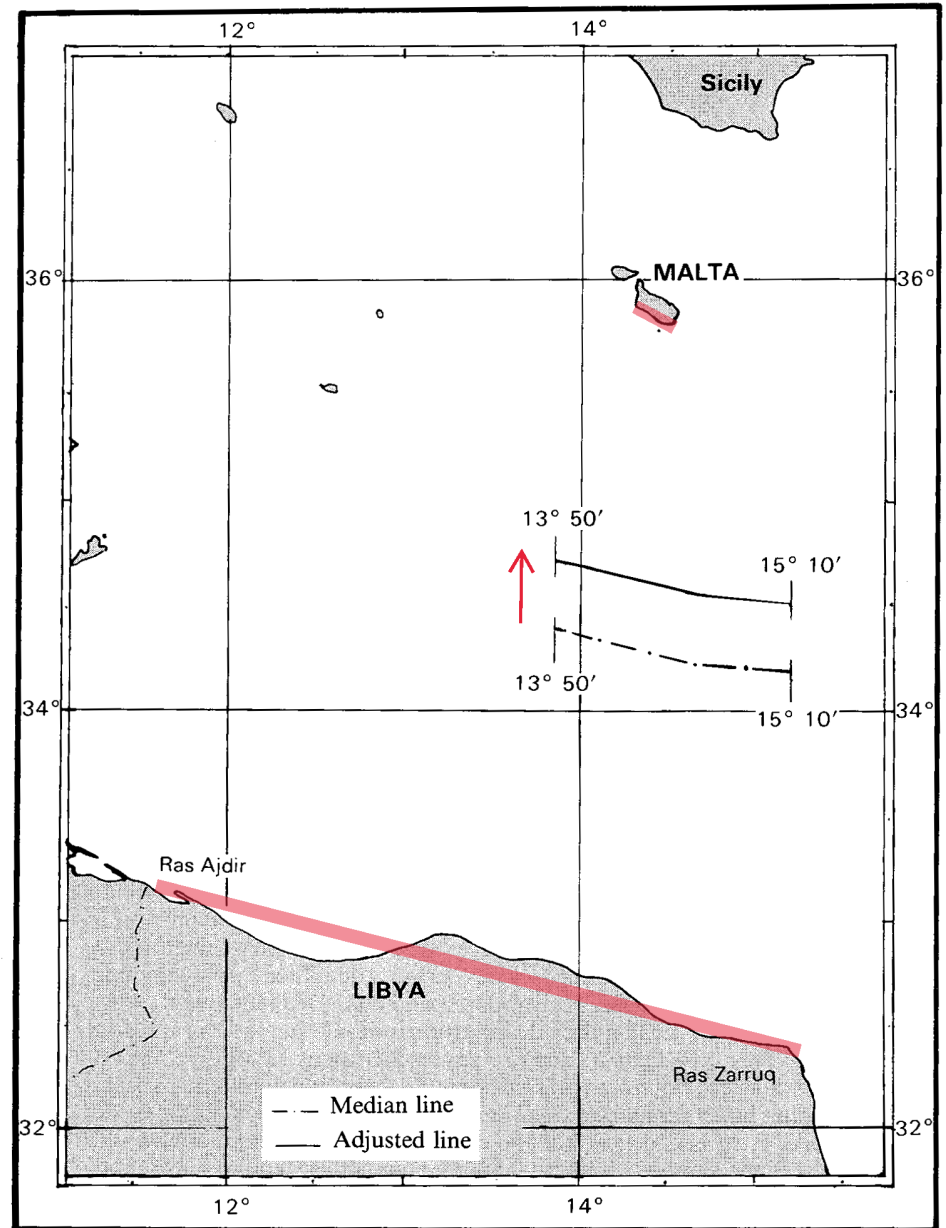
The provisional equidistance line is to be deflected at the point where it begins to cut off the seaward projection of the Bangladesh coast ... The Tribunal has selected the point on the provisional equidistance line that is due south of the point on Kutubdia Island at which the direction of the coast of Bangladesh shifts markedly from north-west to west. (*Bangladesh/Myanmar*, paras 329, 331 (2012))

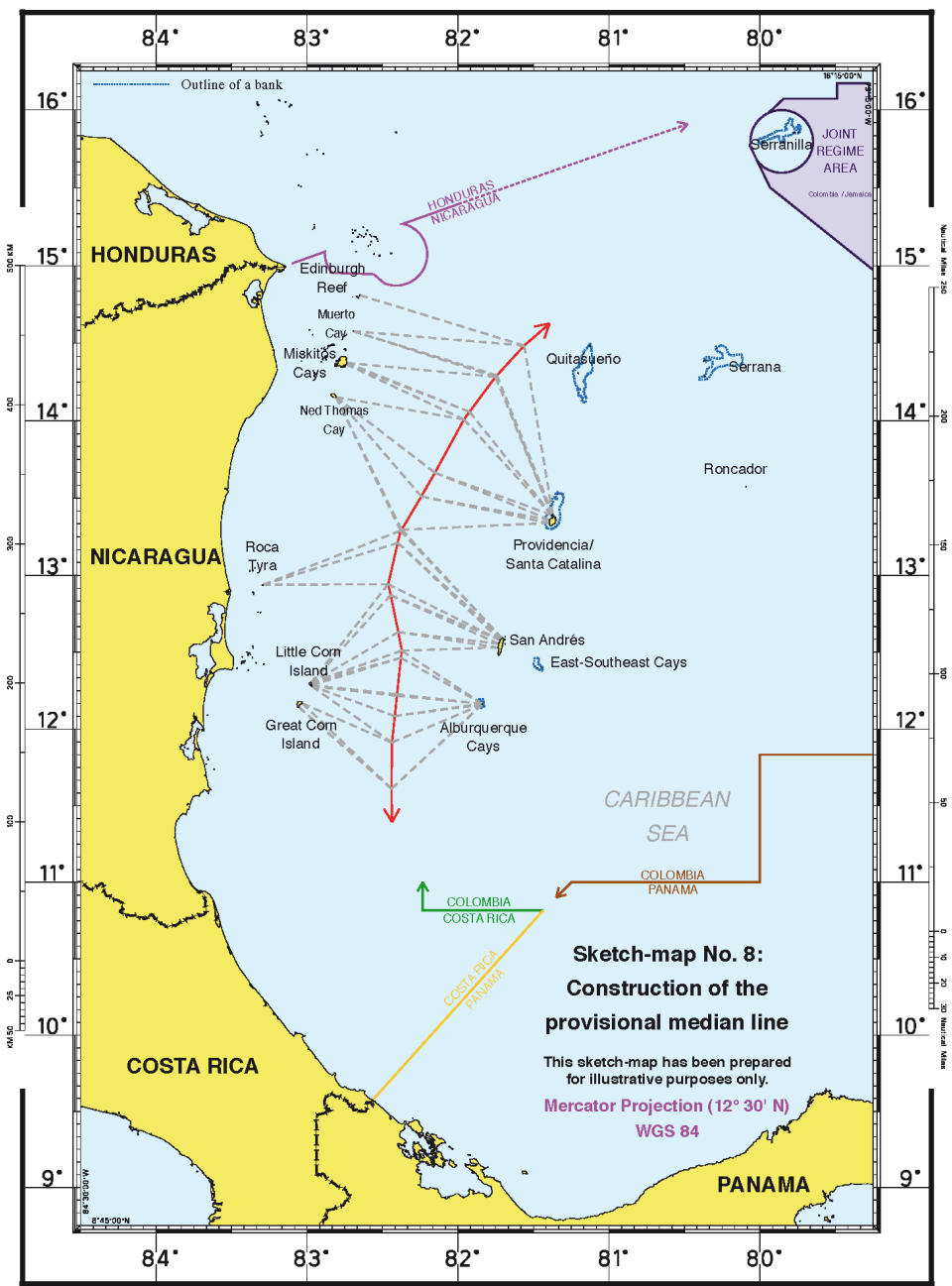
The Court believes that it is necessary to shift the [provisional equidistance] line to the north so that, from Point A, it follows a geodetic line with an initial azimuth of 114° . This line would attenuate in a reasonable and mutually balanced way the cut-off effect produced by the unadjusted equidistance line due to the geographical configuration of the coasts of Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. (*Somalia v Kenya*, para 174 (2021))

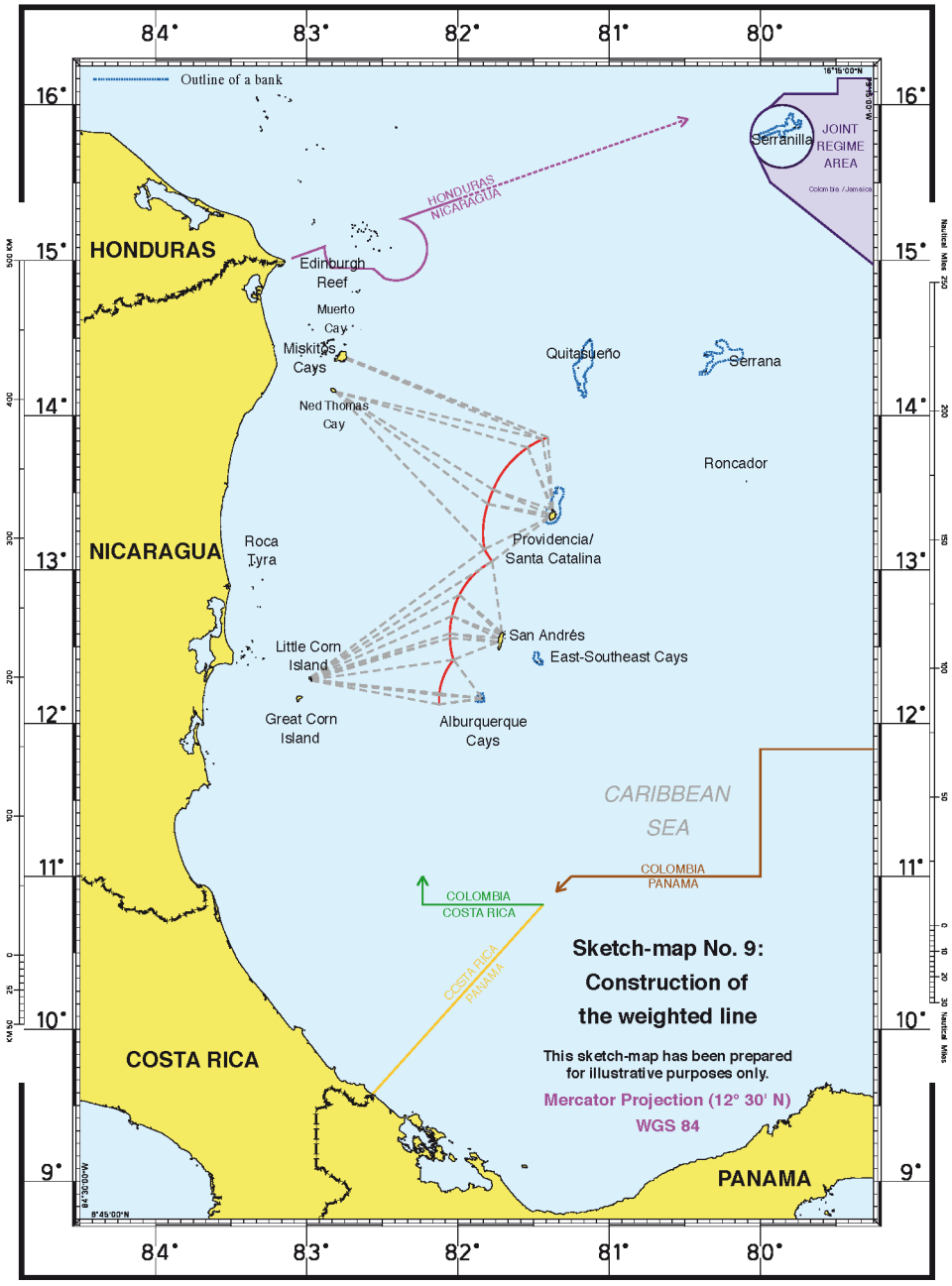


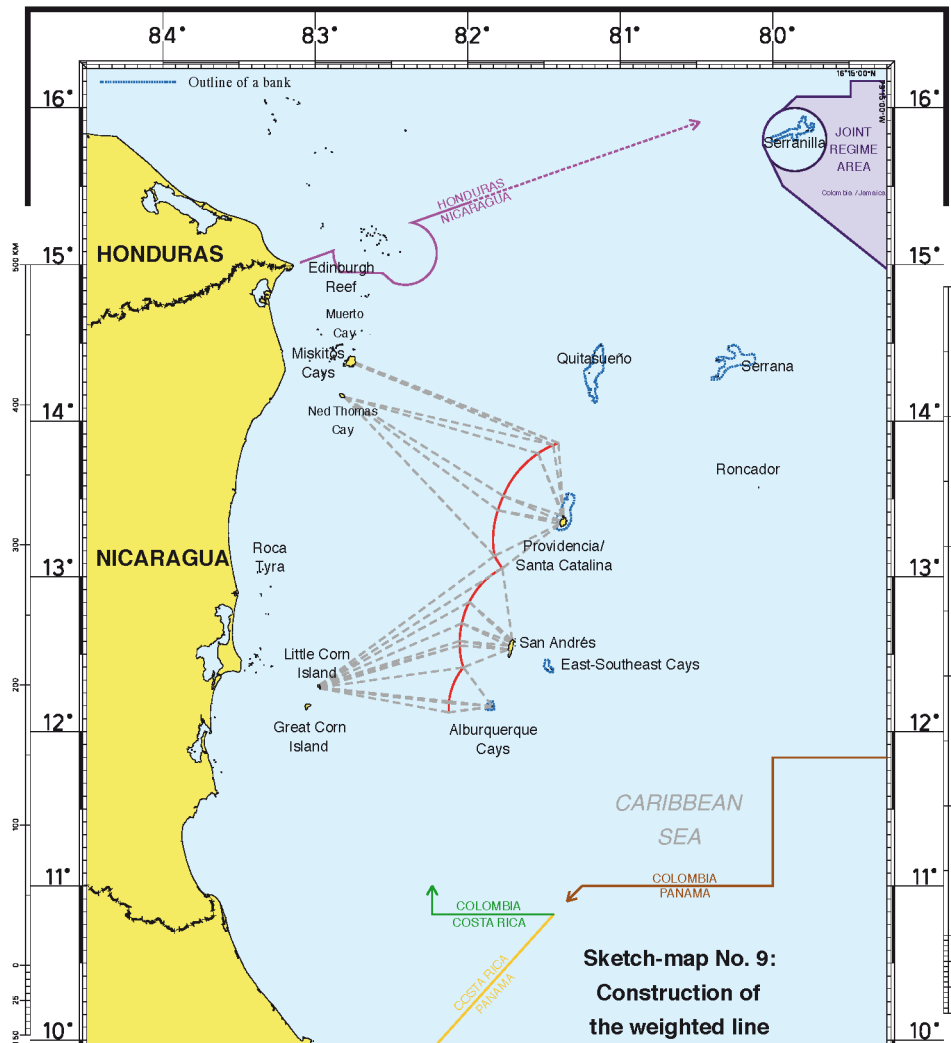
In the view of the Court, this difference [in coastline length, 192 : 24] is so great as to justify the adjustment of the median line so as to attribute a larger shelf area to Libya; the degree of such adjustment does not depend upon a mathematical operation.

(Libya/Malta, para 68 (1985))

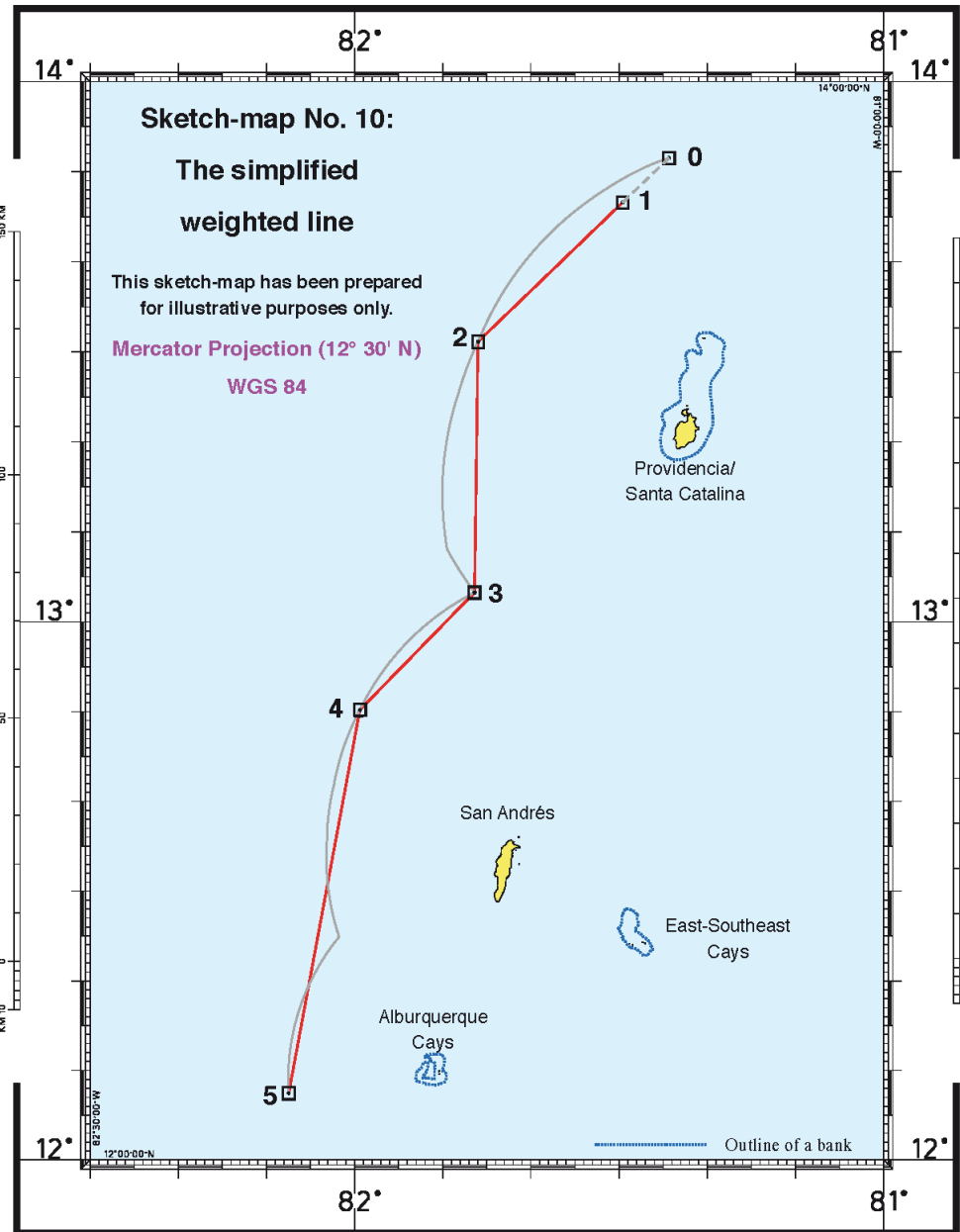


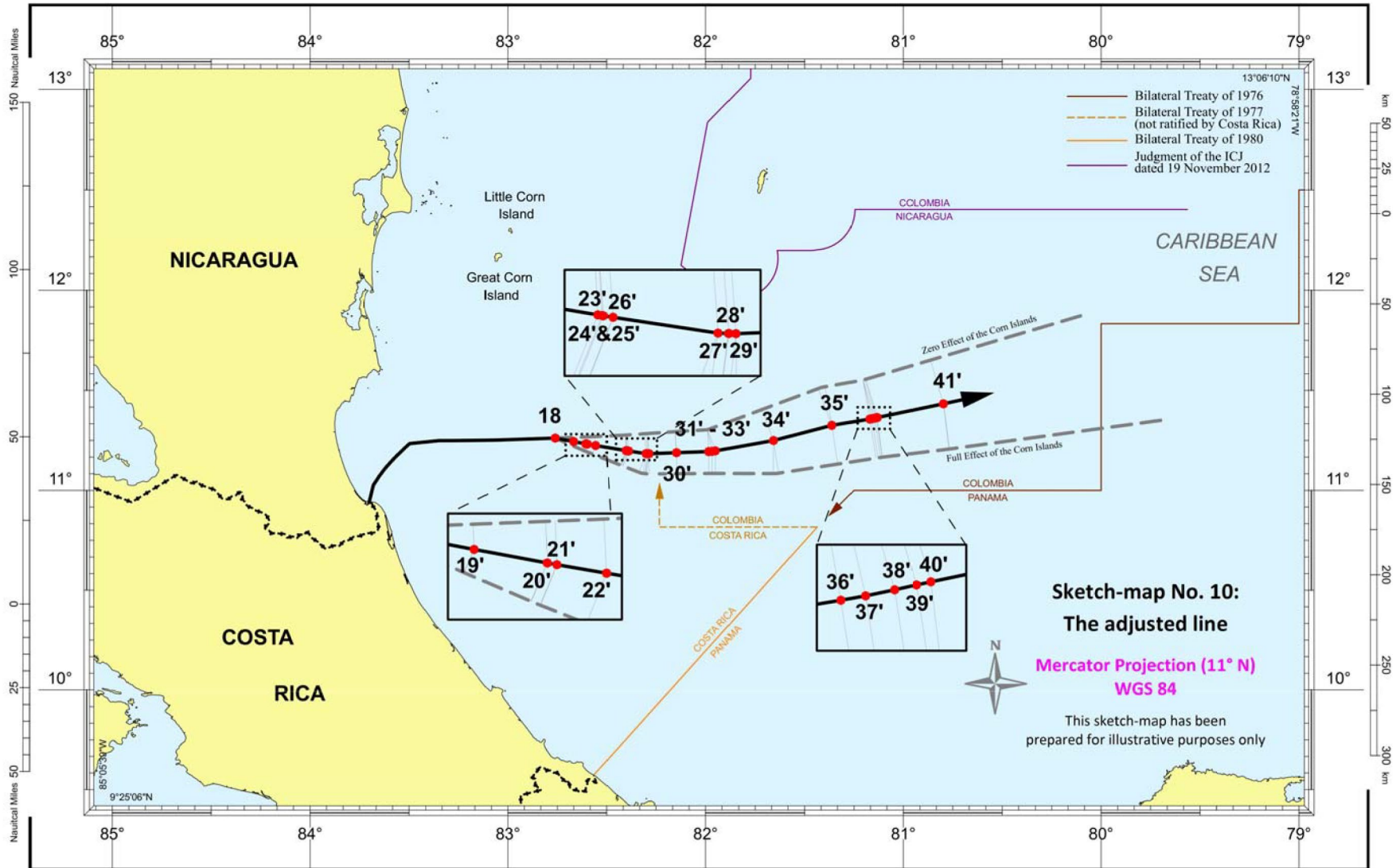


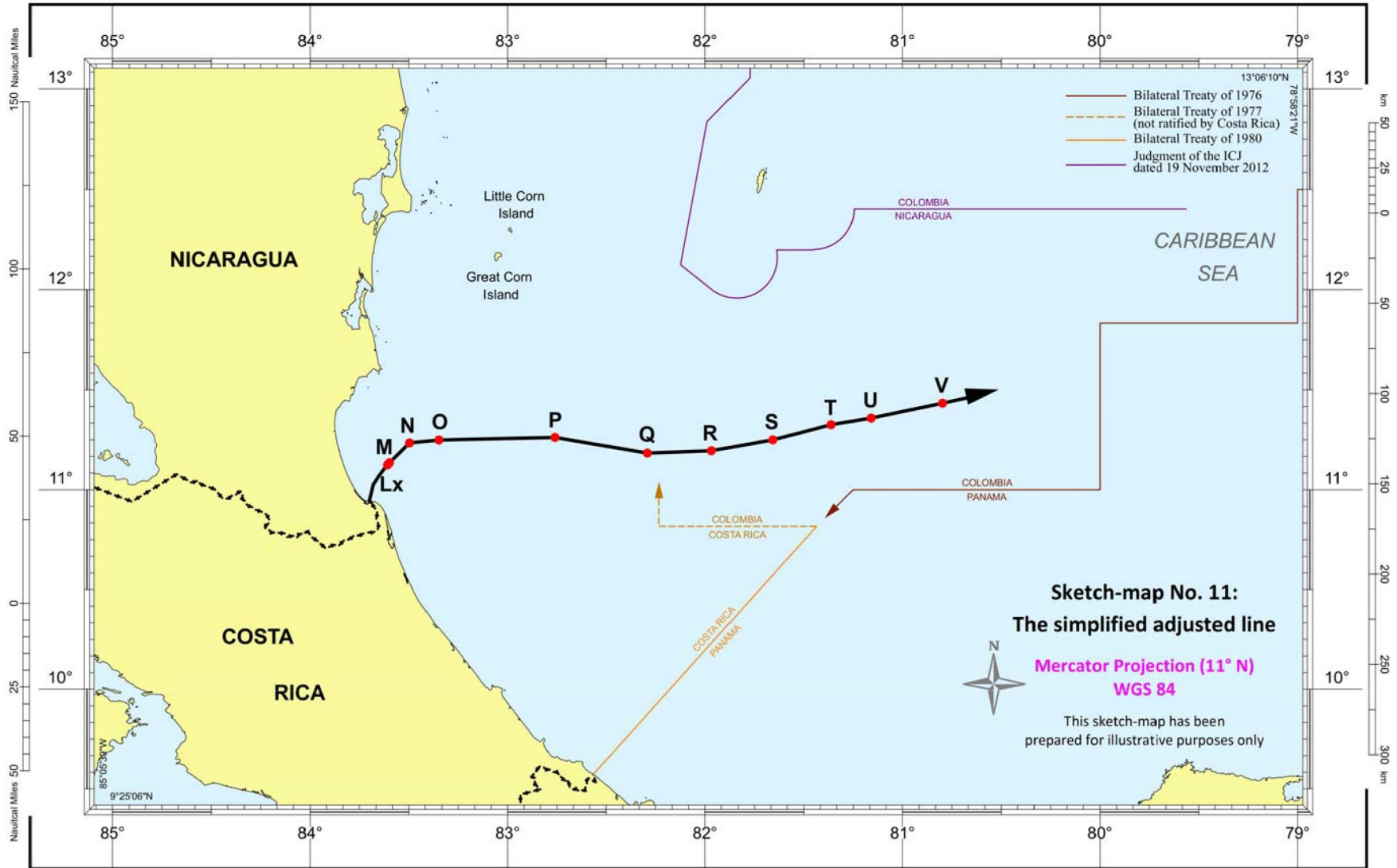




Such a configuration of the line may create difficulties in its practical application. The Court therefore proceeds to a further adjustment by reducing the number of turning points and connecting them by geodetic lines. (*Nicaragua v Colombia*, para 235 (2012))



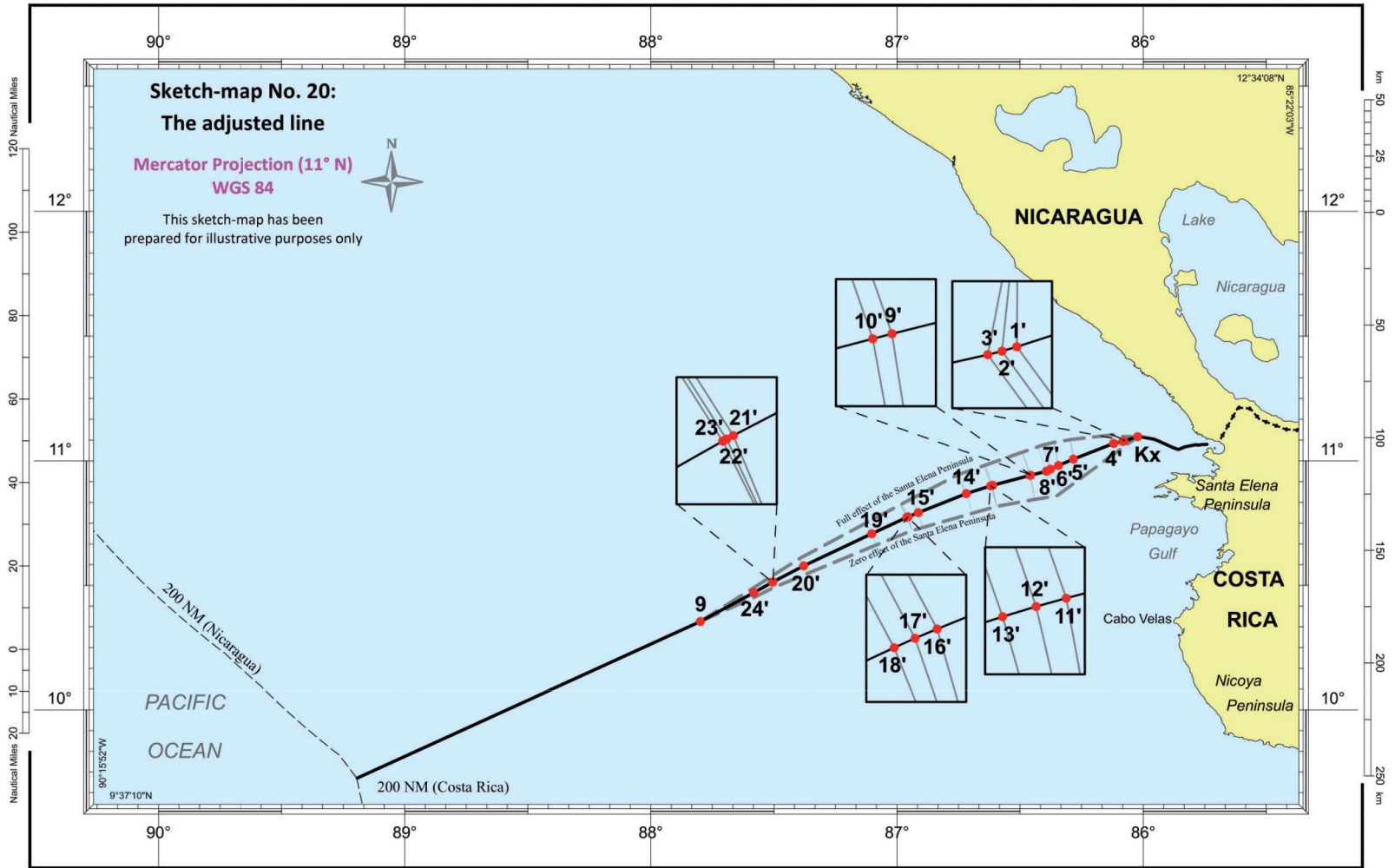


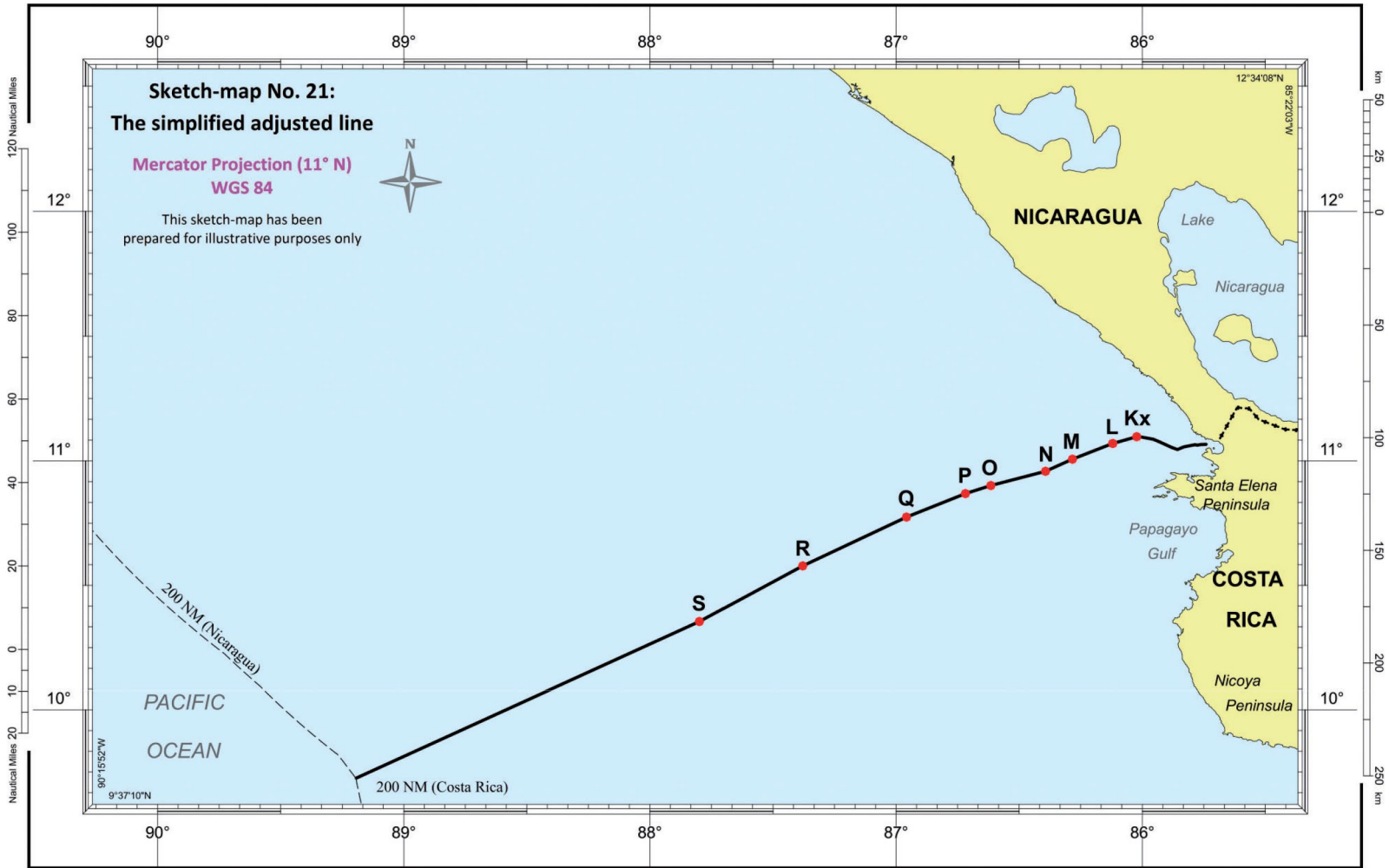


**Sketch-map No. 11:
The simplified adjusted line**

**Mercator Projection (11° N)
WGS 84**

This sketch-map has been prepared for illustrative purposes only





Having reached the conclusion that the construction of an equidistance line from the mainland is not feasible, the Court must consider the applicability of the alternative methods put forward by the Parties.
(*Nicaragua v Honduras*, para 283 (2007))

