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An Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delimitation
held in Durham on 11-13 September 2023.

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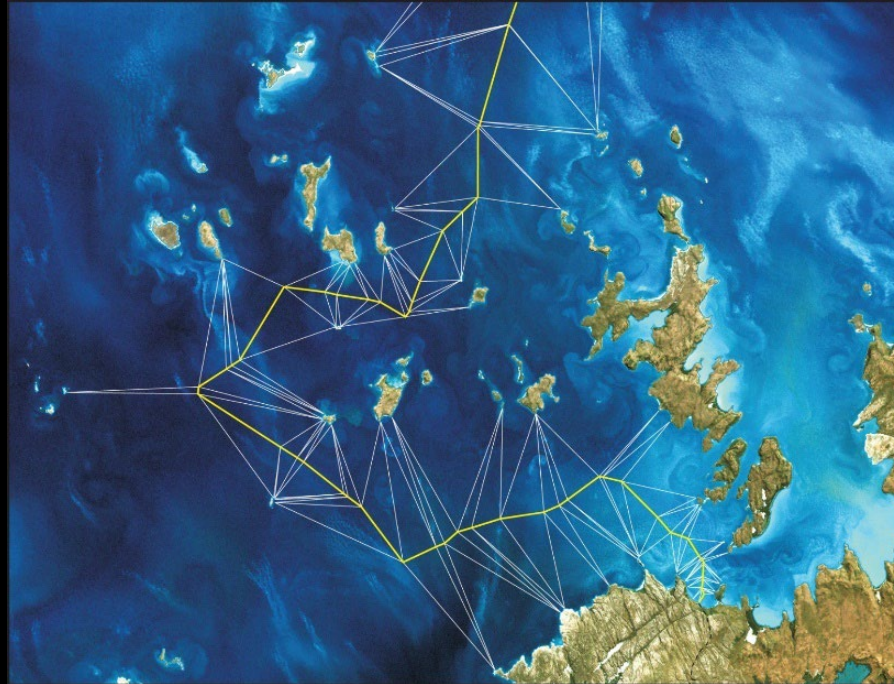
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Thank you.



An Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delimitation



Professional training workshop No. 71
11-13 September 2023



Opening discussion

- What is your background / involvement with maritime boundaries?
- Why do you feel maritime boundaries are important?
- What are the main obstacles to the delimitation of your country's maritime boundaries?
- What are you hoping to get out of this workshop?

The paradox of ocean law and governance

- Oceans are crucial for modern world:
politically, economically, environmentally, culturally



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is inclusive and improves the lives of all



harnesses renewable energy



is based on sustainable fisheries



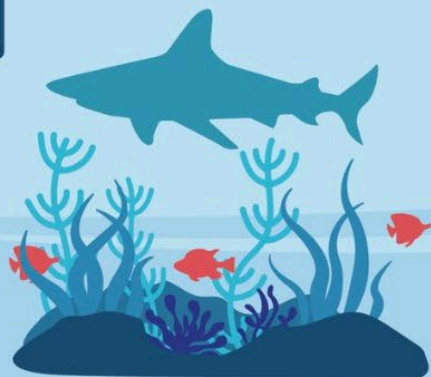
takes action against illegal fishing



creates jobs, reduces poverty and ends hunger



protects coastal communities from the impacts of climate change



conserves marine life and oceans



tackles marine litter and oceans pollution



Maldives



Tuvalu

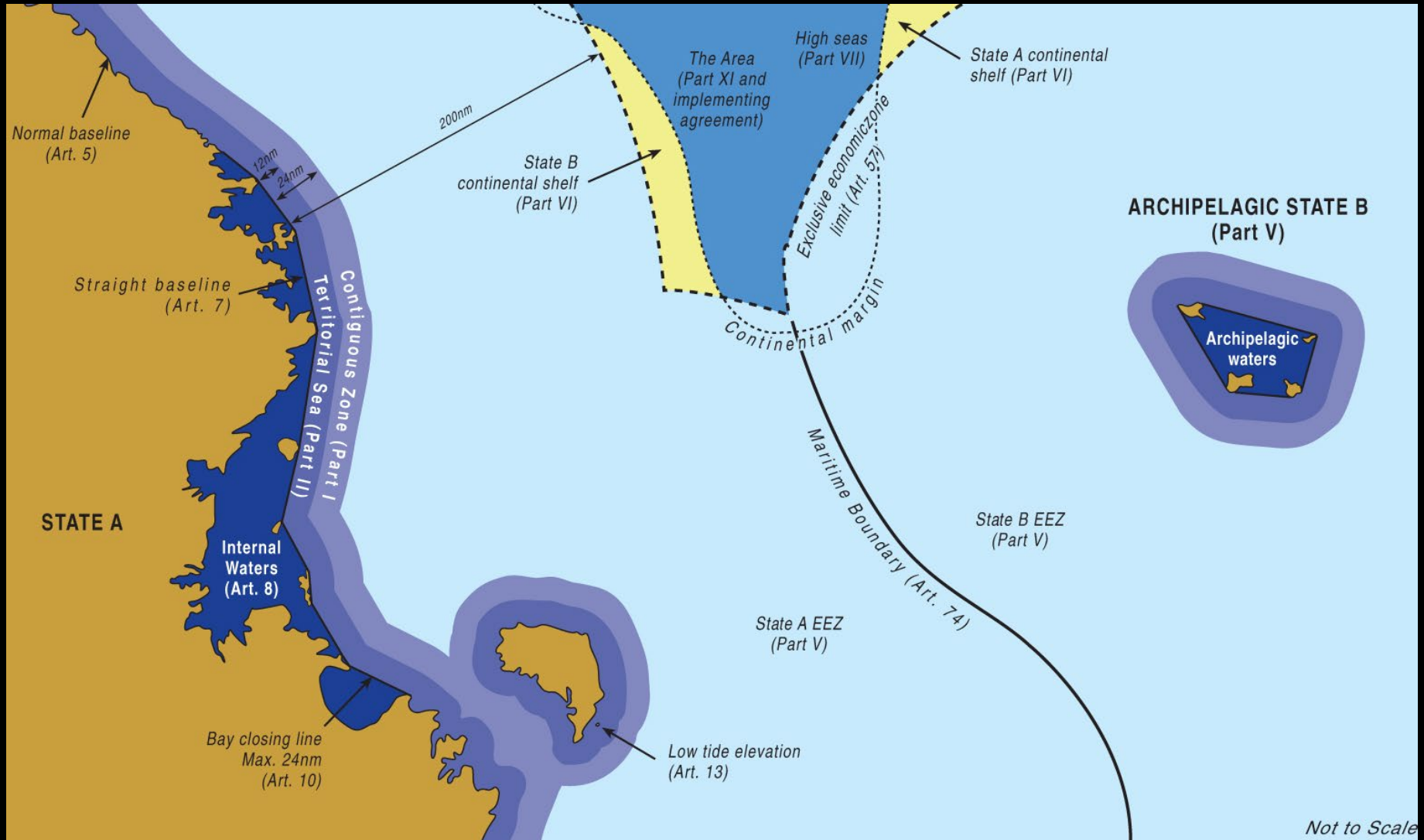
The paradox of ocean law and governance

- Oceans are crucial for modern world:
politically, economically, environmentally, culturally
- Oceans are difficult spaces in which to apply the rule of law

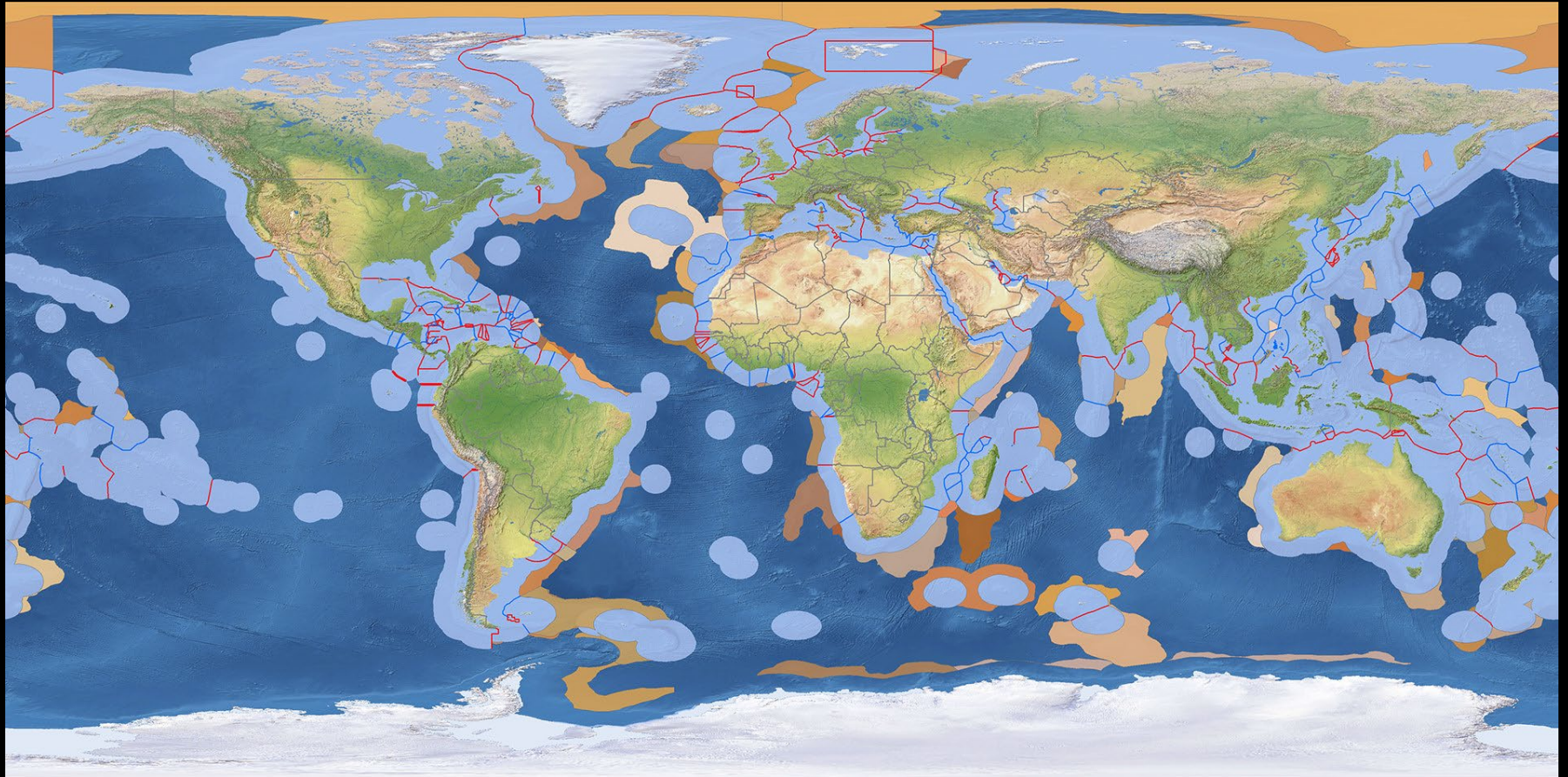




Maritime jurisdiction under UNCLOS



Maritime jurisdiction: the global state of play



Maritime boundaries: the state of play

- Coastal states: **155**
- Potential maritime boundaries: **354** (432 if Canada-USA = 4 etc)
- Boundaries with 1+ signed agreements: **219** (62%)

Figures represent IBRU's count based on available data but should not be treated as definitive

The purpose and value of maritime boundaries

- Produce an equitable division of maritime space

The delimitation of the EEZ / continental shelf ... shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law ... in order to achieve an equitable solution.

UNCLOS Articles 74 and 83, paragraph 1

- Allow for efficient resource exploitation
- Contribute to the sustainable management of the world's oceans
- Minimise risk of disputes and conflict

Maritime jurisdictional disputes

- Disputes linked to sovereignty and land boundary disputes
- Historic internal waters claims
- Maritime security zones / restrictions on navigation and overflight
- Inappropriate straight / archipelagic baselines
- EEZ / continental shelf claims from illegitimate basepoints
- Technical disputes over baselines
- Technical deficiencies in boundary definition
- Disagreement about what constitutes an equitable solution in maritime boundary delimitation, especially coastal geography, and especially the weight that should be accorded to small islands

The importance of technical expertise

- Coastal geography is always central to the determination of an equitable solution in maritime boundary delimitation.
- Coastlines are complex and frequently unstable entities.
- Imprecise definition of international boundaries can lead to future disputes. Calculating positions and distances on the surface of the earth is not as straightforward as it may seem...
- Not many lawyers are expert geographers!

The importance of technical expertise

“It is important to remember that, above all else, delimitation is a practical exercise, despite the amount of theoretical study which both surrounds and obfuscates the subject”

Malcolm Evans, *Relevant Circumstances and Maritime Delimitation*

Technical tasks in maritime delimitation

- Interpreting charts and remotely-sensed imagery
- Identifying relevant basepoints
- Determining relevant coastlines and the relevant area
- Constructing equidistance lines and other potential boundaries
- Determining coastline length & the general direction of the coast
- Evaluating proportionality
- Converting coordinates between geodetic reference systems
- Comparing the effect of using different types of ‘straight’ line
- Evaluating the effect of different vertical datums
- Field surveys
- Preparing illustrative maps

Thank you!



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Geographical intelligence for international
boundary-making and dispute resolution