Claims and potential claims to maritime jurisdiction in the South Atlantic and Southern Oceans by Argentina and the UK

The competing claims of Argentina and the UK to sovereignty over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands are well known. The two states also claim sovereignty over South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkney Islands and a significant portion of the Antarctic continent - although claims south of 60° South are frozen under the terms of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty.

Sovereignty over these territories gives rise to jurisdiction over the marine resources of vast areas of the South Atlantic and Southern Oceans. Under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states may claim sovereign rights over the living and non-living resources of the sea and seabed in an exclusive economic zone extending up to 200 nautical miles from their coastal baselines. Where the physical continental margin extends beyond 200 nautical miles, the states also have rights over the resources of the seabed to the outer limit of the continental shelf (subject to certain constraints). The maps here illustrate the extent of the jurisdictional claims of Argentina and the UK and highlight the degree of overlap between them.