



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 182

Application of MARPOL in Bahamian Waters – Archipelagic Baselines

Guidance for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers, Masters and Other Interested Parties

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin provides guidance on the application of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL) and United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) in Bahamian waters.
- 1.2. Any references to Articles and Regulations in this Bulletin are references to MARPOL and UNCLOS unless stated otherwise.

2. Application

- 2.1. MARPOL applies to all ships engaged in international voyages and:
 - i. of 400 gross tonnage and above; **or**
 - ii. of less than 400 gross tonnage, which are certified to carry more than 15 persons, including private (non-commercial) yachts.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. The Bahamas is a Party to MARPOL and its six (6) Annexes.
- 3.2. Questions have arisen over the application of MARPOL in Bahamian waters, with respect to archipelagic baselines. This Bulletin is provided to set out The Bahamas' position.

4. Archipelagic Base Lines

- 4.1. The base lines for The Bahamas are set out in the Archipelagic Waters and Maritime Jurisdiction (Archipelagic Baselines) Order, 2008 *Ch.282* (S.I. 107/2008)¹.
- 4.2. This Order sets out the geographical coordinates of points which define the archipelagic baselines of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. These baselines constitute the outer limits of the archipelagic waters and the inner limits of the territorial sea. Article 48 of UNCLOS provides that '*the breadth of the territorial sea, ... shall be measured from archipelagic baselines.*'
- 4.3. The positions of the baselines are provided in Annex 1 of this Bulletin.
- 4.4. The positions of the baselines are shown graphically in Annex 2 of this Bulletin.

5. Application of baselines to MARPOL

- 5.1. In accordance with Article 46 of UNCLOS, The Bahamas is an archipelagic State, which means that it is a State constituted wholly by one or more archipelagos and may include other islands. Being an archipelago means that The Bahamas is made up of a group of islands, including interconnecting waters and other natural features which are so closely interrelated that such islands, waters and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity, or which historically have been regarded as such.
- 5.2. A unique feature of The Bahamas being an archipelagic State is that it has archipelagic baselines drawn to enclose its archipelagic waters. It is the archipelagic baselines that all of the other maritime zones (i.e. the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf are measured from. As such, the term 'from the nearest land' used in MARPOL means 'from the archipelagic baselines' which encloses archipelagic waters.
- 5.3. Accordingly, any discharge that is permitted in MARPOL beyond a specified distance "from the nearest land" is the distance from the outside of the base line; i.e. outside the red line shown in Annex 2.

¹ Available at: http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2008/2008-0107/ArchipelagicWatersandMaritimeJurisdictionArchipelagicBaselinesOrder_1.pdf

All Parties are requested to note the above, and comply with the same, when conducting any type of discharge within the waters of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

6. Revision history

Rev.2 (19 July 2019) – Annex 1 replaced with the PDF extracted from:
http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2008/2008-0107/ArchipelagicWatersandMaritimeJurisdictionArchipelagicBaselinesOrder_1.pdf and
https://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/DEPOSIT/bhs_mzn65_2008.pdf

Rev.1 (16 July 2019) - General editorial and formatting on coordinates Pt#36, #44, #79, #86 #93, #94, #95.

Rev.0 (10 June 2019) – First issue

FIRST SCHEDULE (paragraphs 2 and 3)

**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES OF POINTS FOR
THE DRAWING OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC BASELINES
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
(World Geodetic System 1984 - WGS84)**

Point	Name of Feature	Latitude North	Longitude West
1	Walker's Cay	27-16-22.74138N	78-25-16.520461'1
2	Walker's Cay	27-15-43.54019N	78-21-04.750531'1
3	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	27-14-19.49672N	78-16-01.472111'1
4	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	27-13-08.93732N	78-12-46.360721'1
5	Carter's Cay	27-05-13.57268N	77-59-48.324461'1
6	Moraine Cay	27-02-38.53659N	77-46-24.230771'1
7	Moraine Cay	27-02-35.50331N	77-46-13.486031'1
8	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	26-57-25.21218N	77-33-06.758571'1
9	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	26-56-37.58084N	77-31-28.754171'1
10	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	26-56-35.32738N	77-31-23.709231'1
11	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	26-56-29.34224N	77-31-15.761831'1
12	Powel Cay	26-54-39.68819N	77-28-29.949901'1
13	Powel Cay	26-54-33.57811N	77-28-20.854461'1
14	Nun Jack Cay	26-50-45.40917N	77-23-04.195621'1
15	Great Guana Cay	26-42-19.66613N	77-09-32.235391'1
16	Scotland Cay	26-39-05.59160N	77-04-32.255581'1
17	Scotland Cay	26-38-12.11239N	77-03-10.113631'1
18	Man of War Cay	26-37-00.03040N	77-01-20.273021'1
19	Cay/Rock off of Abaco	26-34-31.92437N	76-58-36.943141'1
20	Elbow Cay	26-33-31.33490N	76-57-37.139591'1

Point	Name of Feature	Latitude North	Longitude West
21	Elbow Cay	26-33-19.43260N	76-57-30.396841'1
22	Elbow Cay	26-32-58.10648N	76-57-22.530291'1
23	Elbow Cay	26-32-12.36026N	76-57-21.390331'1
24	Eleuthera	25-09-41.40925N	76-07-52.912861'1
25	Cat Island	24-41-01.47041N	75-40-28.869231'1
26	Cat Island	24-39-08.47227N	75-38-23.861471'1
27	Cat Island	24-38-16.99114N	75-37-30.024541'1
28	White Cay, San Salvador	24-09-41.62705N	74-28-35.753921'1
29	Man Head Cay, San Salvador	24-07-34.62143N	74-26-55.970851'1
30	Man Head Cay, San Salvador	24-07-28.29211N	74-26-51.491851'1
31	Samana Cays	23-04-51.37382N	73-36-06.717781'1
32	Samana Cays	23-04-45.82356N	73-36-03.685961'1
33	Mayaguana Island	22-19-12.25538N	72-40-10.992761'1
34	Mayaguana Island	22-18-24.35151N	72-39-44.757461'1
35	Little Inagua	21-29-18.61463N	72-54-59.92065W
36	Little Inagua	21-29-07.91511N	72-55-06.598731'1
37	Great Inagua	21-11-43.71530N	73-01-04.094071'1
38	Great Inagua	21-09-06.33332N	73-02-12.305851'1
39	Great Inagua	21-09-00.35682N	73--02-15.507441'1
40	Great Inagua	21-08-57.58091N	73-02-17.560991'1
41	Great Inagua	21-08-42.98818N	73-02-27.707461'1
42	Great Inagua	21-07-54.07989N	73-03-04.380291'1
43	Great Inagua	20-56-26.50377N	73-10-31.156491'1
44	Great Inagua	20-54-22.01102N	73-38-46.700541'1
45	Great Inagua	20-55-02.34958N	73-39-39.850261'1

Point	Name of Feature	Latitude North	Longitude West
46	Great Inagua	20-55-05.12227N	73-39-44.240331'1
47	Great Inagua	20-55-58.87920N	73-40-27.566981'1
48	Great Inagua	20-56-00.70975N	73-40-28.124831'1
49	Great Inagua	20-56-08.59392N	73-40-31.730671'1
50	Great Inagua	20-56-10.85737N	73-40-32.951481'1
51	Great Inagua	20-56-27.52912N	73-40-38.424911'1
52	Great Inagua	20-56-28.75195N	73-40-38.926171'1
53	Great Inagua	20-56-29.18488N	73-40-38.998941'1
54	Great Inagua	20-56-31.02291N	73-40-39.249571'1
55	Great Inagua	20-56-34.08375N	73-40-39.176801'1
56	Great Inagua	20-56-39.11930N	73-40-39.249571'1
57	Great Inagua	20-56-41.99781N	73-40-39.613381'1
58	Great Inagua	20-56-48.80290N	73-40-40.656331'1
59	Great Inagua	20-57-45.50349N	73-40-51.554691'1
60	Cay Santa Domingo	21-43-08.89816N	75-45-28.897551'1
61	Cay Lobos	22-22-44.02868N	77 - 35-11, 07912W
62	Guinchos Cays	22-44-54.78658N	78-06-58.437821'1
63	South Anguilla Cay	23-29-21.26984N	79-30-52.882341'1
64	Cay Sal	23-41-08.97774N	80-23-09.516341'1
65	Cay Sal	23-41-09.00752N	80-23-11.408191'1
66	Cay Sal	23-41-09.53616N	80-23-12.556241'1
67	Cay Sal	23-41-33.63702N	80-23-33.431291'1
68	Elbow Cays	23-54-23.18496N	80-28-54.844011'1
69	Elbow Cays	23-55-12.67771N	80-28-31.357551'1
70	Elbow Cays	23-55-14.58031N	80-28-30.233761'1

Point	Name of Feature	Latitude North	Longitude West
71	Elbow Cays	23-55-22.62170N	80-28-24.88968W
72	Elbow Cays	23-55-33.73225N	80-28-18.55926W
73	Elbow Cays	23-55-38.08722N	80-28-16.14998W
74	Double-Headed Shot Cays	23-56-21.12188N	80-27-49.67213W
75	Double-Headed Shot Cays	23-56-39.72861N	80-27-33.29225W
76	Double-Headed Shot Cays	23-56-48.41496N	80-27-24.99721W
77	Water Cays	23-57-34.24407N	80-26-14.00425W
78	Dog Rocks	24-03-59.59047N	79-52-47.24246W
79	Orange Cay	24-56-19.16889N	79-08-25.89181W
80	South Riding Rock	25-14-06.41833N	79-09-05.20837W
81	Brown's Cay	25-23-57.01557N	79-12-03.64074W
82	Wedge Rock	25-30-29.38474N	79-16-04.21316W
83	South Cat Cay	25-35-09.14128N	79-18-17.30576w
84	Cay leading to Bimini	25-35-51.96540N	79-18-36.98425W
85	Cay leading to Bimini	25-36-56.69561N	79-18-49.491501'1
86	South Picket Rock	25-37-40.95281N	79-18-52.127151'1
87	North Picket Rock	25-37-48.63394N	79-18-53.921991'1
88	Triangle Rocks	25-38-09.25799N	79-18-52.903301'1
89	Bimini	25-41-54.40831N	79-18-20.402251'1
90	Unnamed rock off N. Bimini	25-43-26.35667N	79-18-19.22187W
91	Unnamed rock off N. Bimini	25-45-40.70569N	79-17-07.444681'1
92	North Rock	25-48-08.34665N	79-15-47.21075W
93	Hen and Chicken Cays	25-58-57.46966N	79-07-46.906721'1
94	Great Isaacs Cay	26-01-40.20717N	79-05-35.22089W
95	Cay/Rock off of North West Grand Bahama	26-57-05.20104N	79-06-19.18623W

