
Bahamas Archipelagic Baselines

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

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 Information Notice 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 Information Notice 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](http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2008/2008-0107/ArchipelagicWatersandMaritimeJurisdictionArchipelagicBaselinesOrder_1.pdf) Ch.282 (S.I.107/2008)¹.

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

- 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.
- 5.4. 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. Queries

- 6.1. Any queries on this Notice may be addressed to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

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 | Powe1 Cay | 26-54-39.68819N | 77-28-29.949901'1 |
| 13 | Powe1 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 |

Annex 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 |

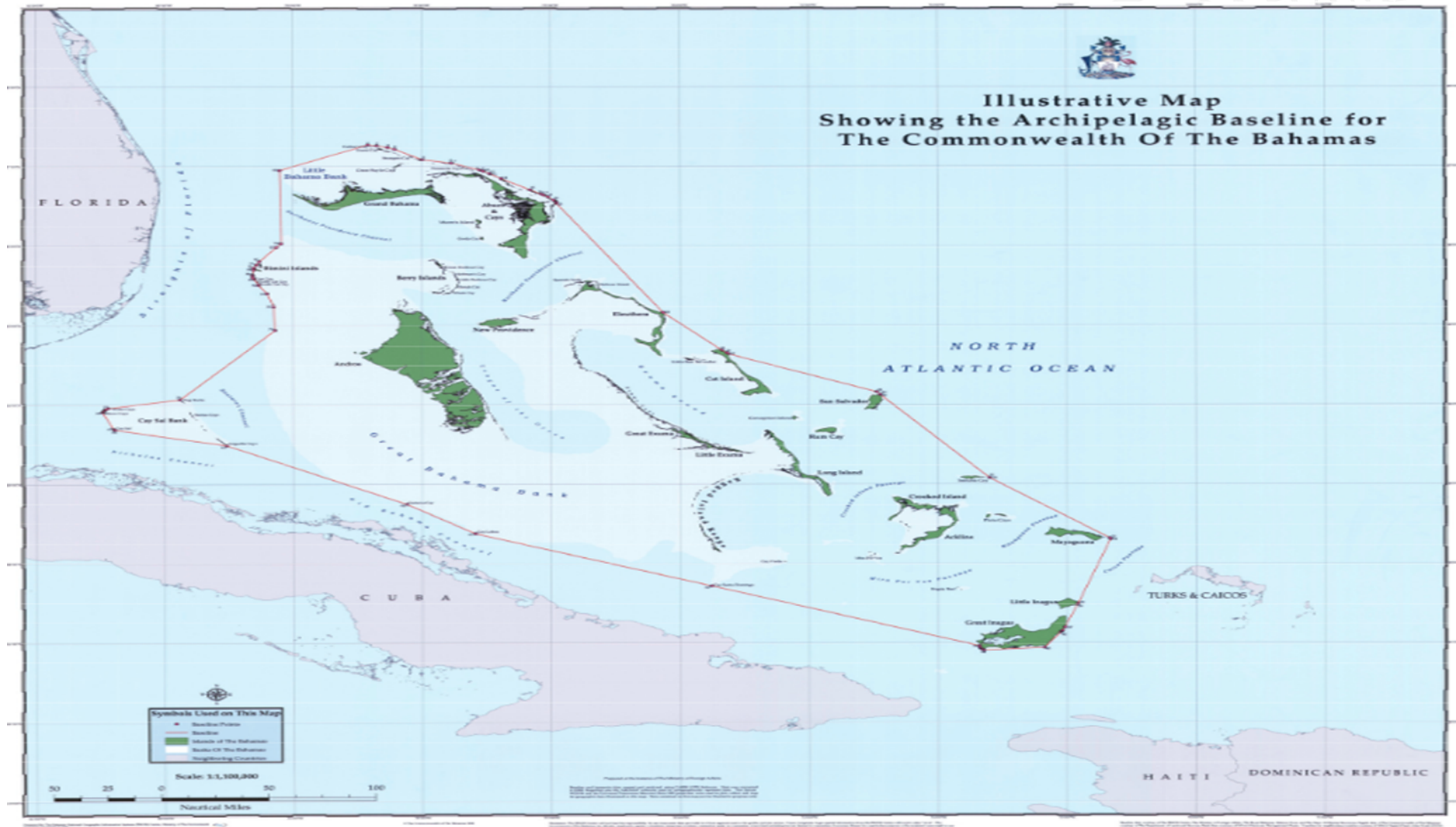
Annex 1

| 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 |

Annex 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 |

Annex 2



Revision History

[illegible]