

Human Use - Maritime Zones

description

This map displays the six maritime zones recognized by the Federal Government of Canada. These zones were determined during the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which was approved by Canada in 2003. Maritime zones are required under international law and designate the range of diminishing sovereign rights from coastal areas and outline what rights can be exercised by other countries within sovereign waters (DFO, 2013).

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2013) and the United Nations (2013), the six maritime zones outlined in UNCLOS and Canada's Oceans Act, are:

- Internal Waters (all waters landward of a coastal state's jurisdictional coastline, which is also known as the UNCLOS Baseline)
- Territorial Sea (0–12 nautical miles seaward of the UNCLOS baseline)
- Contiguous Zone (12–24 nautical miles seaward of the UNCLOS baseline)
- Exclusive Economic Zone (12–200 nautical miles seaward of the UNCLOS baseline)
- Continental Shelf (the extended perimeter of the North American continent and associated coastal plain. For the BC Coast, Canada's Pacific Internal Waters are found on the Continental Shelf, along with much of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone.)
- High Seas (the area seaward of the outer limit of Canada's continental shelf)

The map does not distinguish areas under federal or provincial jurisdiction because the boundaries of these areas within the Canadian Pacific have not been conclusively determined and the extent of First Nations rights and title in marine areas has not been formally resolved (Paisley et al., 2003). In general, provincial jurisdiction covers the waters and submerged lands of "inland" areas, such as the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait, as well as areas that are "within the jaws of the land" such as estuaries, bays and fjords (Alley & Topelko, 2007; DFO, 2008). Marine resources that are attached or subsurface, as well as activities that require contact with the land such as boat moorage, are also under provincial control (DFO, 2008). The Canadian Constitution gives the federal government jurisdiction over many of the activities within the water column, including shipping and fishing (Paisley et al., 2003). Federal jurisdiction also covers the seabed in areas that have been designated for federal activities, such as ports (Alley & Topelko, 2007).

data sources

- Continental Shelf: Living Oceans Society
- Territorial Sea: Canadian Coast Guard
- Exclusive Economic Zone: Natural Resources Canada

data resolution

- None provided

date collected

- Not listed

date compiled

- 2013

reviewers

- Karen Topelko, Province of British Columbia

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- The provenance of the Territorial Sea data is unknown. The Contiguous Zone was created by buffering the Territorial Sea data. Due to the unknown provenance of the original data; neither feature should be considered accurate for official purposes.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a Marine Planning Context: None provided

map, feature data and metadata access

Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

- Alley, J., and K. Topelko. 2007. Oceans governance arrangements in British Columbia. http://www.maritimeawards.ca/OGCWC/Docs/Oceans_Governance_Arrangements.pdf
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2008. The role of the provincial and territorial governments in the oceans sector. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/pg-gp/pdf/pg-gp-eng.pdf>
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2013. Canada's ocean estate: A description of Canada's maritime zones. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/canadasoceans-oceansduncanada/marinezones-zonesmarines-eng.htm>
- Paisley, R.K., M. Curlier, C. Leon, B. Graizbord, & E.C. Brickleyer, Jr. 2003. Integrated coastal management (ICM): A brief legal and institutional comparison among Canada, the United States and Mexico. *Ocean and Coastal Law Journal*, 9, 195-220.
- United Nations. 2013, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Oceans and law of the sea: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982. https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/UNCLOS-TOC.htm

BCMCA Atlas

Human Use Maritime Zones

Legend

- UNCLOS Baseline
- - - Territorial Sea
- - - Contiguous Zone
- Continental Shelf
- - - Exclusive Economic Zone

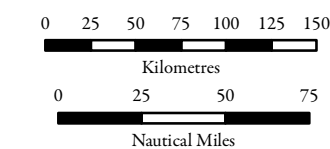
Note:
- UNCLOS = United Nations Charter on the Law of the Sea
- The territorial sea extends 12 nm from the UNCLOS baseline
- The contiguous zone extends 12 nm from the boundary of the territorial sea
- The exclusive economic zone extends 200 nm from the UNCLOS baseline but does not include the territorial sea

Data Sources:
Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
Natural Resources Canada,
Parks Canada

Base Data:
ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC,
NOAA, Natural Resources Canada,
USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:
For more information on data sources
and methods please refer to the
facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83



1:4,250,000 *

* Written scales are approximate and
are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.
May 13, 2013



Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The inset is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance to this region.