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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 16

*CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: FINLAND-SOVIET UNION*

The Geographer  
Office of the Geographer  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

## CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: FINLAND-SOVIET UNION

The Governments of the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed an Agreement on May 20, 1965, relating to the division of the continental shelf in the Gulf of Finland. Ratifications were exchanged and the Agreement came into force on May 25, 1966. Both Finland and the Soviet Union are parties to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf.

The Agreement set forth the following principles:

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Having regard to the favourable development of relations between Finland and the Soviet Union, founded on the 1948 Finnish-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, and to the interests of Finnish fishermen,

Desiring to define the boundaries of sea areas and continental shelf in the Gulf of Finland and thus contribute to the further development of good-neighbourly relations between the two countries,

Having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1958 on the territorial sea and the contiguous zone and on the continental shelf,

Have decided to conclude this Agreement and have for that purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries the undersigned, who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

### *Article 1*

The Contracting Parties agree that the sea frontier between Finland and the USSR and the boundaries of Finnish and Soviet territorial waters in the section of the Gulf of Finland to the north-east of the island of Suursaari (Gogland) shall be drawn as follows:

The sea frontier between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall follow a straight line in a south-westerly direction from the terminal point of the sea frontier fixed in 1940 and confirmed by the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Finland, whose co-ordinates are 60° 15' 35" north latitude and 27° 30' 43" east longitude, to the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 13' 42" north latitude and 27° 27' 50" east longitude and shall then turn and follow a straight line in a west-south-westerly direction to the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 12' 19" north latitude and 27° 18' 01" east longitude, which shall be the terminal point of the sea frontier between Finland and the Soviet Union.

From the aforementioned terminal point of the sea frontier, the boundary of Soviet territorial waters shall follow a straight line in a south-westerly direction to the point, situated on the boundary of Soviet territorial waters fixed in 1940 and confirmed by the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Finland, whose co-ordinates are 60° 08' 49" north latitude and 27° 04' 36" east longitude.

The boundary of Finnish territorial waters shall follow a straight line in a westerly direction from the aforementioned terminal point of the sea frontier to the point, situated on the boundary of Finnish territorial waters fixed in 1940 and confirmed by the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Finland, whose co-ordinates are 60° 12' 19" north latitude and 27° 13' 49" east longitude.

*Article 2*

The Contracting Parties agree not to extend their fishing and other areas in the section of the Gulf of Finland to the north of the island of Suursaari (Gogland) beyond a line marking the middle of the water area between the boundaries of Finnish and Soviet territorial waters fixed in 1940 and confirmed by the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Finland.

The said line shall begin at the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 10.6' north latitude and 27° 11.3' east longitude and run in a generally westerly direction through the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 10.6' north latitude and 26° 57.9' east longitude and the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 10.4' north latitude and 26° 54.9' east longitude to the point whose co-ordinates are 60° 08.8' north latitude and 26° 47.9' east longitude, which shall be the initial point of the median line in the section of the Gulf of Finland to the west of the island of Suursaari (Gogland).

*Article 3*

The Contracting Parties agree not to extend their territorial waters or their fishing and other areas in the section of the Gulf of Finland to the west of the island of Suursaari (Gogland) beyond the median line passing through the points whose geographical co-ordinates are the following:

60° 08.8' north latitude and 26° 47.9' east longitude, 60° 06.8' north latitude and 26° 38.4' east longitude, 60° 06.4' north latitude and 26° 32.6' east longitude, 60° 00.0' north latitude and 26° 20.8' east longitude, 59° 59.4' north latitude and 26° 13.1' east longitude, 59° 58.4' north latitude and 26° 08.4' east longitude, 59° 52.0' north latitude and 25° 58.5' east longitude, 59° 52.9' north latitude and 25° 28.0' east longitude, 59° 53.6' north latitude and 25° 10.6' east longitude, 59° 52.4' north latitude and 24° 57.6' east longitude, 59° 50.8' north latitude and 24° 49.7' east longitude, 59° 44.5' north latitude and 24° 24.8' east longitude, 59° 37.4' north latitude and 23° 54.8' east longitude, 59° 31.9' north latitude and 23° 30.1' east longitude, 59° 32.0' north latitude and 23° 10.0' east longitude.

*Article 4*

The lines of the sea frontier and of the boundaries of Finnish and Soviet territorial waters referred to in article 1 as well as the lines referred to in articles 2 and 3 and the geographical co-ordinates through which the said lines pass are indicated on charts Nos. 400, 403 and 404 (date of issue: 1964), which are annexed to this Agreement. All the co-ordinates referred to in this Agreement conform to the system of co-ordinates employed in the charts.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall mark at the appropriate sites the point where the sea frontier between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics turns and its terminal point, the geographical co-ordinates of which are, respectively, 60° 13' 42" north latitude, 27° 27' 50" east longitude and 60° 12' 19" north latitude, 27° 18' 01" east longitude.

The costs incurred in connexion with these operations shall be shared equally by the Contracting Parties.

Article 6

The lines referred to in articles 2 and 3 of this Agreement shall constitute the boundary of the continental shelf of the Republic of Finland and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Gulf of Finland.

Article 7

This Agreement shall be ratified and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The exchange of the instruments of ratification shall take place in Moscow as soon as possible.

DONE at Helsinki on 20 May 1965, in duplicate in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic Finland:

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

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ANALYSIS

The delimitation of the continental shelf boundary (CSB) between Finland and the Soviet Union was plotted on U.S. Naval Oceanographic Chart H.O. 4845 (revised July 1, 1968).

The CSB extends for a distance of 147.1 nautical miles and the boundary has 21 terminal or turning points with an average distance between the points of 7.4 nautical miles. The minimum and maximum distances between the points are 1.6 and 17.0 nautical miles, respectively. The water depth at the CSB points ranges from 16 to 46 fathoms with an average depth of 31.2 fathoms.

The initial point of the CSB (Point 1) also marks the seaward extent into the Gulf of Finland of the international boundary between Finland and the Soviet Union. This point is 30 nautical miles from the mainland. Further details relevant to the international maritime boundary can be found in the following: U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer, Finland-USSR Boundary, International Boundary Study No. 74, of February 1, 1967.

Points 1 to 3 cover a distance of 7.4 nautical miles and delimit the sea frontier between the two countries for purposes of fishing and sealery. The three points were fixed in 1940 and confirmed by the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Finland.

The boundary segment from Point 3 to Point 7 is a line marking the middle of the water area between Finnish and Soviet claims to the territorial sea; the Finnish claim is 4 nautical miles, while the Soviet claim is 12 miles. The length of the segment from Point 3 to 7 is 15.7 nautical miles.

Point 7 marks the beginning of the equidistant line dividing the continental shelf between Finland and the Soviet Union. The points of the CSB were fixed according to the equidistance principle, except for Point 7 which is also the terminal point for the territorial water boundary that was delimited independent of the equidistance principle. The CSB from Point 7 to 21 is a distance of 124 nautical miles.

Point 21 is the terminus of the CSB and it is located at the natural entrance to the Gulf of Finland.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FINLAND-SOVIET UNION  
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Terminal or Turning Points	Distance between Points	Depth	Finland Territory	Distance, Land to CSB Point		Soviet Union Territory
				Nautical miles	Nautical miles	
	(nautical miles)	(fathoms)				
1	2.2	22	Island	(4)	(5)	Someri
2	5.2	27	Island	(4.7)	(5.3)	Someri
3	3.8	31	Island	(4)	(10.2)	Someri
4	6.5	34	Island	(5.2)	(7.8)	Suursaari
5	1.6	16	Island	4.2		Suursaari
6	3.8	22	Island	(4.6)	(4.2)	Suursaari
7	5.0	23	Island	(8.0)	(10.1)	Suursaari
8	4.0	31	Island	8.5		Ruuskeri
9	8.0	27	Tiiskeri	9		Ruuskeri
10	4.0	35	Tiiskeri	10		Ruuskeri
11	3.0	32	Tiiskeri	11		Vaindlo
12	8.0	35	Island	11.5		Vaindlo
13	15.0	37	Island	12.2		Vaindlo
14		25	Island	14		Island

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FINLAND-SOVIET UNION  
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY (Continued)

Terminal or Turning Points	Distance between Points  (nautical miles)	Depth  (fathoms)	Finland Territory	Distance, Land to CSB Point		Soviet Union Territory
				Nautical miles	Nautical miles	
	9.0					
15	7.0	30	Island	12.5		Keri
16	5.0	36	Island	10.5		Keri
17	14.0	46	Island	10.5		Keri
18	17.0	43	Porkkala Kallbada	8.8		Naissaar
19	14.0	36	Island	14.5		Mainland
20	11.0	43	Island	14		Osmussaar
21		46	Island	14.8		Osmussaar

SUMMARY

The composite water boundary between Finland and the Soviet Union consists of four distinct segments: (1) the seaward extension of the international boundary, (2) the sea frontier, (3) the midline between the two territorial sea claims, and (4) the CSB delimited according to the equidistance principle.

The delimitation of the composite water boundary between Finland and the Soviet Union employs no particular principles modified to deal with unique situations of island locations or coastal configurations.