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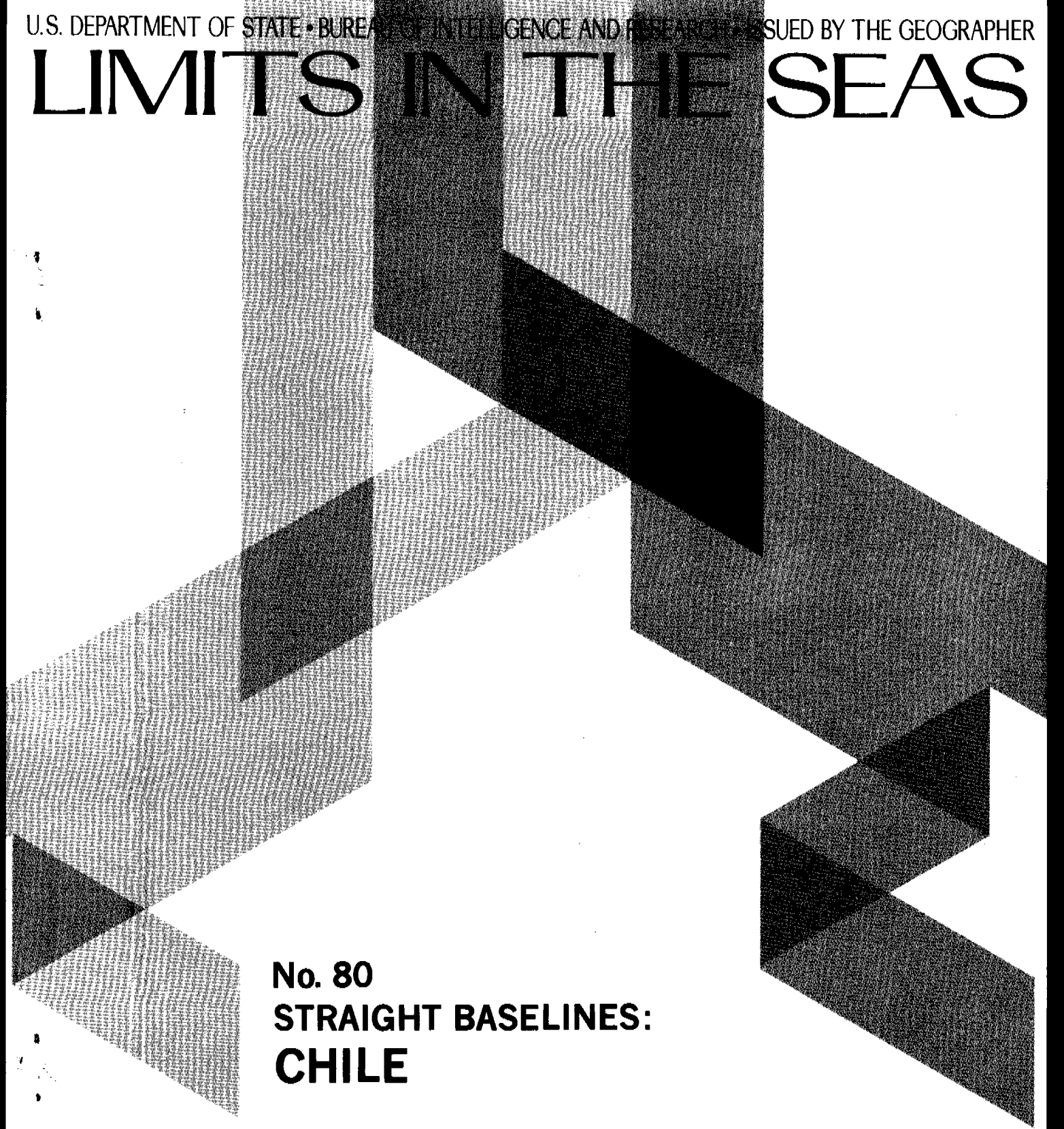
LIMITS IN THE SEAS



No. 80
STRAIGHT BASELINES:
CHILE

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the maritime areas of coastal nations.

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Straight Baselines: Chile

November 15, 1978

Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

I. STRAIGHT BASELINES - CHILE

The Government of Chile has promulgated--by Decree No. 416 of July 14, 1977--straight baselines for the coastal area of Chile encompassed by the parallels of 41° and 50° south latitude. The straight baseline system has been depicted on chart I.H.A. No. 5.[1]

The straight baseline system of Chile comprises 75 points situated as follows:

Point No.	Feature Name	Latitude (South)	Longitude (West)
1	Punta Puga	41°28.6'	73°52.0'
2	Punta Guabun	41°48.7'	74°04.5'
3	Islote Corcovado	42°16.3'	74°12.7'
4	Cabo Quilan	43°16.5'	74°26.8'
5	Rocas Salientes Pta. Weather (I. Guafo)	43°33.4'	74°50.5'
6	Islotes al Occ. de Isla Guafo	43°37.3'	74°52.2'
7	Cabo Lort (Isla Ipun)	44°33.1'	74°48.0'
8	Punta Norte (I. Guamblin)	44°46.6'	75°09.8'
9	Punta Searle (I. Guamblin)	44°49.0'	75°12.3'
10	Punta Bories (I. Guamblin)	44°55.3'	75°09.8'
11	Islote Occ. de I. Menchuam	45°37.7'	74°56.8'
12	Isla Rees	46°36.8'	75°35.5'
13	Cabo Mifford	46°39.7'	75°36.5'
14	Islote de Punta Rees	46°45.1'	75°37.7'
15	Islote de Cabo Raper	46°49.0'	75°37.7'
16	Islote de Cabo Elena	46°54.1'	75°33.9'
17	Punta Occidental de Bahia Seal	46°58.2'	75°28.2'
18	Cabo Tres Montes	46°59.0'	75°25.4'
19	Islote al Occ. de Isla Medora	47°43.0'	75°24.7'
20	Roca Dundee	48°06.4'	75°42.0'
21	Isla Western	49°06.0'	75°44.7'
22	Grupo Vorposten	49°22.3'	75°41.4'
23	Islote Offshore	49°27.8'	75°40.4'
24	Islotes Rugga	50°06.0'	75°30.5'
25	Islote Rodado	50°21.7'	75°31.5'

1. The chart, attached, has been reproduced with the permission of the Hydrographic Institute of the Navy, Republic of Chile.

Point No.	Feature Name	Latitude (South)	Longitude (West)
26	Islote Redondo (Cabo West Cliff)	50°40.0'	75°31.2'
27	Rocas Scout	50°50.5'	75°28.8'
28	Isla Conica	51°10.7'	75°15.5'
29	Roca Santa Lucia	51°37.0'	75°21.0'
30	Roca Galicia	52°03.4'	75°09.0'
31	Islotes Evangelistas	52°23.6'	75°05.6'
32	Islote Cabo Parker	52°42.8'	74°11.2'
33	Isla Falgate	52°55.3'	73°49.9'
34	Cabo Providencia	53°00.5'	73°34.8'
35	Pta. Havannah	53°09.8'	73°18.8'
36	Pta. San Jeronimo	53°32.0'	72°23.3'
37	Pta. Arauz	53°32.2'	72°21.4'
38	Pta. Zegers	52°55.1'	70°17.7'
39	Pta. Paulo	52°58.3'	70°19.3'
40	Cabo Monmouth	53°22.0'	70°26.6'
41	Cabo Valentin	53°34.5'	70°32.2'
42	Pta. norte Bahia Lomas	53°46.8'	70°42.3'
43	Pta. sur Bahia Lomas	53°49.7'	70°46.4'
44	Pta. Zig - Zag	54°03.7'	70°52.8'
45	Islote Dos Hermanos	53°58.2'	71°24.0'
46	Islote Theo	53°50.8'	71°53.0'
47	Cabo Edgeworth	53°47.7'	72°08.6'
48	Extremo norte Peninsula Ulloa	53°31.6'	72°39.8'
49	Pta. Casper	53°18.8'	73°10.6'
50	Isla Pritchard	53°14.4'	73°18.8'
51	Cabo Monday	53°10.6'	73°23.9'
52	Isla Centinela	53°05.3'	73°35.2'
53	Islote noreste Pta. Felix	52°56.5'	74°07.1'
54	Cabo Pilar	52°43.6'	74°40.3'
55	Cabo Deseado	52°44.7'	74°43.0'
56	Roca 88	52°50.1'	74°44.0'
57	Cabo Inman	53°18.5'	74°19.2'
58	Cabo Gloucester (Isla Carlos)	54°04.0'	73°28.0'
59	Isla Tower	54°37.8'	73°05.0'
60	Punta English	54°43.5'	72°04.2'
61	Rocas Phillips	55°11.5'	70°58.6'
62	Isla Sea	55°13.7'	70°32.8'
63	Rocas Cabrestante	55°21.6'	70°10.7'
64	Isla Hope	55°29.0'	69°39.5'
65	Islas Ildefonso	55°44.7'	69°25.0'
66	Falso Cabo de Hornos	55°43.5'	68°03.7'
67	Isla Hermite Punta S. W.	55°51.8'	67°51.0'
68	Cabo Spencer (Isla Hermite)	55°54.7'	67°37.5'
69	Cabo de Hornos	55°58.8'	67°16.0'
70	Rocas Deceit	55°56.5'	67°00.5'
71	Islas Barnevelt	55°49.5'	66°48.2'
72	Islas Evout	55°33.9'	66°46.5'
73	Punta Oriental (Isla Nueva)	55°13.0'	66°25.4'
74	Islote Chico (Isla Nueva)	55°11.4'	66°25.7'
75	Point XX, the eastern limit of the 1977 Arbitral Award	55°07.3'	66°25.0'

II. ANALYSIS

The straight baseline system, as enumerated above, does not constitute a single, continuous system (see attached chart).

From point 1, situated in the north at approximately latitude 41°28'S., one system extends southward to point 35 near the western exit of the Strait of Magellan. Segment 36-37 connects the Isla Riesco with the Brunswick Peninsula. The effect of these two segments, 1-35 and 36-37, is to enclose as internal waters of Chile the fjords, embayments, and channels between the islands and the mainland north of the Strait of Magellan.

A second major section of the straight baseline system connects the islands south of the Strait of Magellan with the Chilean mainland, comprised of the large island of Tierra del Fuego. (Sovereignty over Tierra del Fuego, of course, is divided between Chile and Argentina.) Segment 38-39 encloses the juridical bay of Gente Grande on the south shore of the Strait of Magellan. Segment 40-41 connects the western cape of Chilean Tierra del Fuego with Isla Dawson, while Segment 42-43 encloses a juridical bay on the island.

Segments 44-45, 45-46, and 46-47 follow the general direction of the southern shore of the Strait of Magellan connecting the major islands of Dawson, Aracena, Clarence, and Santa Ines.

The remainder of the straight baseline system, extending continuously from points 48 through 75, serves to enclose the islands south of the Strait of Magellan in the west and the Beagle Channel in the east. As noted in the list of coordinates, point 75 is the terminal point of the boundary determined by the Beagle Channel award.

The lengths of the individual straight baseline segments of the Chilean system are as follows:

Points	Length n.m.	Points	Length n.m.
1-2	22.168	45-46	18.314
2-3	28.257	46-47	9.753
3-4	61.071		
4-5	24.164	48-49	22.449
5-6	4.090	49-50	6.607
6-7	55.878	50-51	4.888
7-8	20.600	51-52	8.632
8-9	2.988	52-53	21.187
9-10	6.547	53-54	23.924
10-11	43.389	54-55	1.977
11-12	64.958	55-56	5.442
12-13	2.982	56-57	32.137
13-14	5.465	57-58	54.805
14-15	3.902	58-59	36.436
15-16	5.730	59-60	35.755
16-17	5.664	60-61	47.086
17-18	2.078	61-62	14.944
18-19	44.025	62-63	14.909
19-20	26.147	63-64	19.264
20-21	59.671	64-65	17.750
21-22	16.457	65-66	45.978
22-23	5.543	66-67	10.980
23-24	38.771	67-68	8.139
24-25	15.729	69-70	9.012
25-26	18.321	70-71	9.858
26-27	10.622	71-72	15.660
27-28	21.899	72-73	24.151
28-29	26.557	73-74	1.612
29-30	27.462	74-75	4.127
30-31	20.335		
31-32	38.371		
32-33	17.993		
33-34	10.512		
34-35	13.410		
36-37	1.151		
38-39	3.348		
40-41	12.959		
42-43	3.788		
44-45	19.527		

The total length of these straight baselines is 1,351.073 nautical miles.[2] The shortest segment measures 1.151 nautical miles (segment 36-37), while the longest is 64.958 nautical miles (11-12). The 68 individual lines have an average length of 19.87 nautical miles. Five segments measure in excess of 50 nautical miles, approximately the longest straight baseline in the historic Norwegian system.

The Chilean straight baseline system (as noted above) comprises five distinct elements, as well as two bay closing lines; the latter, from point 38 to 39 and point 42 to 43, both measure less than 4 miles in length. As a result, they meet the juridical qualification of a bay as expressed in the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone. Chile is not a party to this convention. Identical criteria to define a juridical bay, however, are included in the present Informal Composite Negotiation Text (ICNT) of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

The southern portion of Chile, south of 41° S. latitude, has the classical geographic configuration required by international law for the development of a straight baseline system. The coastline is deeply indented with fjord-like embayments, and the mainland is virtually masked in its entirety by thousands of major and minor islands and rocks.

The system appears to include all Chilean coastal islands. Moreover, it has been deliberately constructed so as to exclude the Strait of Magellan from within the system of internal waters. The strait is the subject of an international treaty (July 23, 1881) which guarantees free navigation through its waters.

2. Intervening normal baseline lengths are excluded from the total.