

Supreme Decree No. 959-A of 28 June 1971
prescribing straight baselines for the measurement of the Territorial Sea(1)

Whereas article 628 of the Civil Code in force provides that the Ecuadorian territorial sea shall be measured in both the continental territory of the Republic and the Colón Archipelago (Galápagos Islands), from the straight baselines which will be determined for this purpose by Executive Decree; and

Whereas, a Commission composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the Navy and the Military Geographic Institute has studied the plotting of such lines and determined their trajectory; and

Whereas, such study has been approved by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Ministry of National Defense on the grounds that it is in the national interest and fully conforms to the rules of international law which are in force on the matter,

It is hereby decreed:

Article 1

The straight baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the Republic shall be measured shall be constituted by the following traverses:

I. On the continent

- (a) The line shall start from the point of intersection of the maritime frontier with Colombia, with the straight line Punta Manglares (Colombia) - Punta Galera (Ecuador);
- (b) From this point a straight line passing through Punta Galera and meeting the northernmost point of Isla de la Plata;
- (c) From this point a straight line to Puntilla de Santa Elena;
- (d) A straight line from Puntilla de Santa Elena in the direction of Cabo Blanco (Peru) to the intersection with the geographic parallel constituting the maritime frontier with Peru.

II. In the Colón Archipelago (Galapagos Islands)

- (a) From Isote Darwin a straight line to the north-eastern tip of Isla Pinta;
- (b) A straight line to the northernmost point of Isla Genovesa;
- (c) A straight line passing through Punta Valdizan, Isla San Cristóbal, and intersecting the northern extension of the straight line joining the south-eastern tip of Isla Española to Punta Pitt, Isla San Cristóbal;
- (d) A straight line from this intersection to the south-eastern tip of Isla Española;
- (e) A straight line to Punta Sur, Isla Santa María;

(f) A straight line passing through the south-eastern tip of Isla Isabela, near Punta Essex, and intersecting the southern extension of the line joining the outermost projecting point of the western coast of Isla Fernandina, approximately in its middle, with the western tip of the southern sector of Isla Isabela, in the vicinity of Punta Cristóbal;

(g) From this point of intersection a line passing through the western tip of the southern sector of Isla Isabela, in the vicinity of Punta Cristóbal, to the outermost projecting point on the western coast of Isla Fernandina, approximately in its middle; and

(h) A straight line to Isla Darwin.

Article 2

The sea areas lying between the lines described in article 1 (I) and the coast line on the continent, and within the lines described in article I(II), in the Colón Archipelago, shall constitute internal waters.

Article 3

The Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy, in cooperation with the Military Geographic Institute, will perform the necessary geodetic and astronomical work for determining the geographic coordinates of the reference points throughout the lines in both the continental coast and in the coast of the Galapagos Islands and the outer limits of the territorial sea, and will also establish the azimuths and extensions of the segments of each traverse described in Article 1, and any other technical data that may be essential in plotting the aforesaid straight baselines.

Article 4

The funds required for performing the work to which reference is made in Article 3 will be made available to the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy by the National Government through the proper Ministries.

Article 5

Upon completion of the work to which reference is made in Article 3, the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy, in cooperation with the Military geographic Institute, will plot, on a nautical chart drawn up to a suitable scale, the straight baselines and the outer and lateral limits of the territorial sea of the Republic.

Article 6

The nautical chart, with the plottings to which reference is made in Article 4, shall be approved under an Executive Decree.

Issued at the National Palace, in Quito, on June 28, 1971.

/s/ J.M. Velasco Ibarra
President of the Republic

/s/ Vicente Burneo Burneo
Minister of Production
Acting Minister of Foreign Relations

/s/ Luis Robles Plaza

Minister of National Defense

(2)

Endnotes

1 (Note - Note)

United Nations Legislative Series, ST/LEG/SER.B/18, pp. 15 and 16.

2 (Note - Note)

Illustrative map: Atlas of the Straight Baselines, by G. Francalanci, S. Mongardini, D. Romanò and T. Scovazzi, 2nd ed., (Milan, Giuffrè, forthcoming).