

SOLOMON ISLANDS

NO. 18 OF 1977

Assented to in Her Majesty's name and on Her Majesty's  
behalf this 16th day of December 1977.

COLIN H. ALLAN  
Governor

AN ORDINANCE

TO EXTEND THE FISHERY LIMITS OF THE SOLOMON  
ISLANDS TO TWO HUNDRED NAUTICAL MILES

(1<sup>st</sup> January 1978)      Date of  
commence  
ment

ENACTED by the Governor of the Solomon Islands with the advice and  
consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Solomon Islands as  
follows:-

*Fishery Limits Ordinance 1977 — No. 18 of 1977*

Short title and commencement.	1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Fishery Limits Ordinance 10-7 and shall come into operation on such date as the Governor may, by notice appoint
Extension to 200 Nautical Miles.	2. Subject to section 3 hereof, the fishery limits of the Solomon Islands extend to 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea adjacent to the Solomon Islands is measured.
Provision for adjustment of limits..	3. For the purpose of implementing any international agreement or the arbitral award of an international body or otherwise the Governor may by Order declare that the fishery limits of the Solomon Islands extend to such other line as may be specified in the Order.
Application of limits to existing laws..	4. References to fishery limits in' any enactments for the time being in force relating to sea fishing are to the limits set by or under the preceding sections of this Ordinance. Passed by the Legislative Assembly this seventh day of December one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the BW passed by the Legislative Assembly and found by me to be a true and correct copy of the said BW.

(J.A. JONES)  
Clerk to the Legislative Assembly

*Delimitation of Marine Waters Act 1978 - No. 32 of 1978*

SOLOMON ISLANDS

**DELIMITATION OF MARINE WATERS ACT 1978**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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**AN ACT**

**OF PARLIAMENT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE  
DEMARCATON OF THE MARINE WATERS  
APPERTAINING TO SOLOMON ISLANDS TO  
DECLARE THE RIGHTS OF SOLOMON  
ISLANDS IN RELATION THERETO AND FOR  
MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH AND  
INCIDENTAL THERETO**

*Date of Commencement: 14 August 1979*

ENACTED by the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

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| Citation and<br>commence-<br>ment | 1. This Act may be cited as the Delimitation of Marine Waters Act, 1978, and shall come into force on such date as the Minister may by notice appoint:<br>Provided that the Minister may specify different dates for the coming into force of different sections of this Act.  |
| Interpretation                    | 2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—<br>"archipelago" means a group of islands, including parts of islands, interconnecting waters and other natural features which are so closely inter-related that such islands, waters and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical entity, and |

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which has been declared by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette to be an archipelago;

"archipelagic baselines" means the baselines drawn under the provisions of subsection of section 4;

"island" means a naturally formed area of land which is surrounded by and above water at mean high-water spring tides;

"low-water line" means the line of low water at mean low-water spring tides as depicted on the largest scale nautical chart of the area produced by any authority and for the time being held and used by the Minister responsible for marine affairs;

"median line" means a line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of Solomon Islands and of any opposite or adjacent State of territory are measured;

"Mile" means the international nautical mile;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs;

"territorial seas" means the territorial seas of Solomon Islands as defined in section 5.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, permanent harbour works that form an integral part of a harbour system shall be treated as forming part of the coast.

Internal  
waters

3. (1) Except where closing lines are drawn under the provisions of subsection (2), waters all waters on the landward side of the baselines of the territorial seas of Solomon Islands are the internal waters of Solomon Islands.

(2) When making an order under the provisions of section 4, the Minister may also declare, by reference to physical features marked on official charts or to lists of geographical co-ordinates specifying the geodetic datum, the points between which closing lines are to be drawn for the purpose of determining the outer limits of the internal waters of any archipelago in Solomon Islands.

(3) Where closing lines are drawn under the provisions of subsection (2) the internal waters of any archipelago in Solomon Islands shall include all waters on the landward side of those closing lines.

Archipelagic  
waters

4. (1) The archipelagic waters of each archipelago in Solomon Islands shall comprise all areas of sea contained within the baselines established under the provisions of this section.

(2) The Minister in accordance with the rules of international law may by order published in the Gazette, by reference to physical features marked on official charts or to lists of geographical co-ordinates specifying the geodetic datum, the points between which

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straight baselines are to be drawn for the purpose of determining the outermost limits of the archipelagic waters of any archipelago in Solomon Islands and the innermost limits of the territorial sea of any archipelago in Solomon Islands.

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| Territorial waters             | <p>5. (1) The territorial seas of Solomon Islands comprise all areas of sea having as their innermost limits the baselines established under the provisions of this section and as their outermost limits a line measured seaward from those baselines every point of which is at a distance of twelve miles from the nearest point of the baselines:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Provided that where the median line between Solomon Islands and the sovereign State of Papua New Guinea is less than twelve miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are respectively measured, the outermost limits of the territorial waters of Solomon Islands shall be those declared by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.</p> <p>(2) Where archipelagic baselines are drawn under the provisions of section 4, those baselines shall be the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of any archipelago in Solomon Islands shall be measured.</p> <p>(3) In all other cases the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured is the low-water line along the coast of each island except that in the case of islands situated on atolls or islands having fringing reefs the baseline is the seaward low-water line of the reef.</p> |
| Exclusive economic zone        | <p>6. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands comprises all areas of sea having, as their innermost limits the outermost limits of the territorial seas, and, as their outermost limits, a line drawn seaward from the baselines every point of which is at a distance of 200 miles from the nearest point of the appropriate baselines.</p> <p>(2) The Minister may by order published in the Gazette, for the purpose of implementing any international agreement or the award of any international body, or otherwise, declare that the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands extend to such line, any point of which may be at a distance of less than 200 miles from the nearest point of the appropriate baseline, as may be specified in such order.</p> <p>(3) Where the median line is less than 200 miles from the nearest baselines, and no other line is for the time being specified under the provisions of subsection (2), the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands extend to the median line.</p>  |
| Continental Shelf Act, 1970 to | <p>7. All areas of seabed and the subsoil thereof contained within the exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands are deemed to form part of the continental shelf of Solomon Islands for the purpose of the</p>  |

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| apply                            | 8.  | Continental Shelf Act 1970, and to be subject to the provisions of that Act as if they were areas designated under the provisions of subsection (3) of section 3 of that Act.   |
| Charts and publicity             | 8.  | <p>(1) The Minister shall cause all closing lines, baselines and other lines drawn under the provisions of this Act for the purpose of determining the limits of the internal waters, territorial seas and exclusive economic zone of Solomon Island to be clearly indicated on charts of a scale or scales adequate for them to be readily determined and shall give due publicity to such charts by notice in the Gazette and shall cause a copy of each such chart to be deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations.</p> <p>(2) In any proceedings in any court, a certificate purporting to be signed by the Chief Marine Officer that any specified nautical chart of any area is the nautical chart of that area most suited for the purposes of determining the limits of the internal waters territorial seas or exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands, as the case may be, and is for the time being held by the Minister responsible for Marine affairs shall be admissible in evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.</p>  |
| Legal character of marine waters | 9.  | <p>(1) The sovereignty of the Solomon Islands extends beyond its land territory and internal waters over its archipelagic waters and territorial seas and to the airspace thereover as well as to the seabed and subsoil thereunder.</p> <p>(2) Within the exclusive economic zone Solomon Islands has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living of the seabed and subsoil and the superjacent waters.</p> <p>(3) The exercise by Solomon Islands of its sovereignty and sovereign rights under the provisions of this section is subject to the customary rules of international law.</p>  |
| Rights of passage                | 10. | <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), ships and aircraft of all States shall, in accordance with the rules of international law, have the right of innocent passage through and over the territorial seas and archipelagic waters.</p> <p>(2) The Minister may, in accordance with the rules of international law, by order published in the Gazette designate sealanes and air routes, suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign ships and aircraft, through and over the archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial seas, and may also prescribe traffic separation schemes for the purpose of ensuring the safe passage of ships through narrow channels in such sealanes.</p> <p>(3) In such sealanes and air routes all ships and aircraft may, in accordance with the rules of international law, enjoy the right of navigation and overflight, in their normal modes, for the purpose of continuous, expeditious and unobstructed transit through and over the archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial seas, from one part of</p> |

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the exclusive economic zone to another part of the exclusive economic zone.

(4) Until such time as sealanes or air routes are designated under the provisions of subsection (2) the rights of navigation and overnight referred to in subsection (3) may be exercised through and over all routes normally used for international navigation and overnight.

(5) The rights of navigation and overnight referred to in subsection (3) are subject to all laws of Solomon Islands made in accordance with the rules of international law.

(6) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any other written law made in accordance with the relevant rules of international law all States and their nationals shall enjoy, in the exclusive economic zone, the high seas freedoms of navigation and overnight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and all other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to those freedoms, compatible with the rules of international law.

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| Regulations | <p>11. Where no other provision is for the time being made in any other written law for any such purpose, the Minister may make regulations, in accordance with the rules of international law, for all or any of the following purposes:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) regulating the conduct of scientific research within the exclusive economic zone;</li> <li>(b) regulating the exploration and exploitation of the exclusive economic zone for the production of energy from the waters, currents and winds, and for other economic uses;</li> <li>(c) regulating the construction, operation and use of artificial islands, installations and structures within the exclusive economic zone, including, but not confined to, the establishment of safety zones around islands, installations and structures;</li> <li>(d) prescribing measures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the exclusive economic zone; and</li> <li>(e) providing for such other matters as are necessary or expedient to give effect to Solomon Islands rights and obligations in relation to the exclusive economic zone or are necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this Act.</li> </ul> |
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**SUPPLEMENT** to the Solomon Islands Gazette

Friday, 31st August 1979

S.I. No. 13

[Legal Notice No. 39/79 ]

**THE DELIMITATION OF MARINE WATERS ACT**  
(No. 32 of 1978)

**NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT**

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 1 of the Delimitation of Marine waters Act, 1978, the Prime Minister hereby appoints the 14th day of August 1979 as the date in which the Act shall come into operation with the exception of sections 6 and 7.

Dated at Honiara this 20th day of August, 1979.

PETER KENILOREA  
Prime Minister

[Legal Notice No. 40]

**THE DELIMITATION OF MARINE WATERS ACT**  
(No. 32 of 1978)

**DECLARATION OF ARCHIPELAGOS OF SOLOMON ISLANDS**

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 (1) of the Delimitation of Marine Waters Act, the Prime Minister hereby declares the following groups of islands to be archipelagos for the purposes of the Act -

**MAIN GROUP ARCHIPELAGO**

Shortland Islands  
Treasury Islands  
Choiseul Islands  
New Georgia Islands  
Santa Isabel Islands  
Dai Island  
Russell Islands  
Florida Islands  
Malaita Island  
Guadalcanal Island  
Makira island  
Santa Ana Island  
Santa Catalina Island  
Ulawa Island

**THE RENNELL, BELLONA AND INDISPENSABLE REEF ATOLL ARCHIPELAGO**

Rennell Island  
Bellona Island  
Indispensable Reef Atoll

THE ONTONG JAVA GROUP ARCHIPELAGO  
Ontong Java Atoll

THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO  
Santa Cruz Islands

THE DUFF ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO  
Duff Islands

Made at Honiara this twentieth day of August, 1979.

PETER KENILOREA  
Prime Minister

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[Legal Notice No. 41]

THE DELIMITATION OF MARINE WATERS ACT  
(No. 32 of 1978)

DECLARATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC BASELINES

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 4(2) of the Delimitation of Marine Waters Act, 1978, the Prime Minister hereby declares that the points between which straight baselines are to be drawn for the purpose of determining the outermost limits of the archipelagic waters and the innermost limits of the territorial sea of the archipelagos of Solomon Islands shall be those geographical co-ordinates specified below:—

THE MAIN GROUP ARCHIPELAGO

POINT	CO-ORDINATES		ON B.A. CHART
	SOUTH	EAST	
1. On the reef	06° 59'. 2	155° 31'.75	3419
2. On west coast of Mono I.	07° 23'.85	155° 31'. 2	3419
3. At Laifa Point	07° 25'. 1	155° 31'. 6	3419
4. On West coast of Sterling Is.	07° 27'. 2	155° 33'. 1	3419
5. At Cape Satisfaction	08° 18'. 4	156° 31'. 1	3419
6. Rendova I.	08° 43'.15	157° 20'. 0	3416
7. On Rendova I.	08° 44'.26	157° 23'. 0	3416
8. On Tetepari I.	08° 47'.75	157° 7'.75	3416
9. Off South I.	08° 48'. 7	157° 45'. 9	3416
10. Off East I.	08° 48'. 5	157° 49'. 0	3416
11. At Masaubaga Point	09° 42'. 6	159° 42'. 4	1469
12. Off Cape Hunter	09° 47'. 7	159° 49'. 1	1469
13. Off Koliula Point	09° 49'. 7	160° 03'. 1	1469 & 3404
14. On San Cristobal I.	10° 35'. 3	161° 30'. 7	3412
15. At Cape Howu	10° 40'. 1	161° 37'. 1	3412
16. Off Cape Sydney	10° 45'. 9	161° 46'. 8	3412
17. On the reef	10° 47'.25	161° 91'. 0	3412
18. On Sta. Catalina I.	10° 54'. 2	162° 27'. 0	3412
19. At S.E. Point of Sta. Catalina I.	10° 54'. 0	162° 28'. 0	3412



*THE MAIN GROUP ARCHIPELAGO—(continued)*

20. On Sta. Ana I.	10° 50'. 0	162° 28'. 5	3412
21. On Ulawa I.	09° 43'. 4	161° 59'. 5	3412
22. At Ngora Ngora Point	09° 42'. 5	161° 68'. 9	3412
23. At Cape Arsacides	08° 37'.55	161° 00'. 7	3404
24. Off Nadi I.	07° 52'. 4	160° 38'. 2	3403
25. Off Nadi I.	07° 52'. 1	160° 7'. 15	3403
26. Off Cape Megapode	07° 45'. 2	158° 7'. 45	3403
27. Off Papatura Ite. I.	07° 34'.75	158° 47'. 2	3402
28. Off Omona I.	07° 29'. 5	158° 40'. 4	3402
29. Off North Gijunabeana I	07° 28'. 6	158° 38'. 8	3402
30. Off Suki I.	07° 18'. 4	158° 04'. 7	3402
31. Off Malaengari	06° 38'.15	156° 39'.25	3419
32. Off Cape Alexander	06° 35'. 5	156° 31'. 9	3419
33. Off Pemba Inlet	06° 34'. 7	156° 27'. 75	3419
34. On Oema Atoll	06° 37'. 8	156° 06'. 0	3419
35. On Ovau I	06° 46'. 8	155° 59'. 3	3419
36. On Maifu I	06° 54'.45	155° 49'. 75	3419
37. On the reef	06° 58'. 9	155° 31'. 85	3419

Thence to Point 1 above

THE RENNELL, BELLONA AND INDISPENSABLE REEF ATOLL  
ARCHIPELAGO

POINT	CO-ORDINATES		ON B.A. CHART
	SOUTH	EAST	
38. Off Bellona I.	11° 16'. 1	159° 44'. 9	208
39. On North Reef	12° 19'. 0	160° 03'. 1	208
40. On Middle Reef	12° 39'. 8	160° 17'. 0	208
41. On South Reef	13° 00'. 0	160° 33'. 0	208
42. On South Reef	13° 02'. 5	160° 36'. 0	208
43. On South Reef	13° 00'. 1	160° 38'. 5	208
44. On Rennell I	11° 51'. 2	161° 39'. 1	208
45. On Rennell I	11° 42'. 8	160° 29'. 7	208
46. On Bellona I	11° 17'. 1	159° 48'. 8	208
47. On Bellona I.	11° 16'. 3	159° 46'. 7	208

Thence to Point 38 above

ONTONG JAVA GROUP ARCHIPELAGO

48. Off Kengo I.	05° 24'. 7	159° 12'.05	214
49. Off Kilorna I.	05° 28'.65	159° 16'. 8	214
50. Off Alunga I.	05° 31'. 6	159° 33'. 8	214
51. Off Ngikolo I.	05° 31'.35	159° 38'. 9	214
52. Off Akoo I.	05° 31'.55	159° 40'. 5	214
53. Off Luaniua I.	05° 28'.95	159° 43'. 0	214
54. On Nuika I.	05° 23'. 1	159° 42'. 5	214
55. On the reef	05° 02'. 1	159° 23'. 1	214
56. On the reef	05° 00'. 7	159° 18'. 6	214

ONTONG JAVA GROUP ARCHIPELAGO—(continued)

57. On the reef	05° 02'. 0	159° 16'. 0	214
58. On the reef	05° 07'.65	159° 12'. 9	214
59. On the reef	05° 21'. 5	159° 10'.85	214
60. Off Nguhakai 1.	05° 23'. 4	159° 11'. 0	214
Thence to Point 48 above			

**THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO**

POINT	CO-ORDINATES		ON B.A. CHART
	SOUTH	EAST	
61. At Cape Boscawen	10° 49'.85	165° 46'. 1	17
62. On Astrolabe Reefs	11° 43'. 9	166° 49'. 9	17
63. On Astrolabe Reefs	11° 44'. 5	166° 51'.15	17
64. On Astrolabe Reefs	11° 45'.05	166° 54'. 3	17
65. On Boussole Reef	11° 43'. 8	166° 59'. 4	17
66. Off Astrolabe Point	11° 42'.45	167° 01'. 7	17
67. Off North East Passage	11° 36'.05	167° 01'. 2	17
68. On Temoa I.	10° 15'. 5	166° 22'.65	17
69. Off Nufiloli I.	10° 10'.55	166° 17'. 8	17
70. Off Nukapu I	10° 04'. 1	166° 02'.75	17
71. Off Nupani I	10° 01'. 9	165° 42'. 9	17
72. Off Nupini I	10° 02'. 2	165° 42'. 3	17
73. Off Nupani I	10° 05'.65	165° 41'.65	17
74. Off Nemba	10° 46'.95	165° 44'. 8	17
75. Off Nemba	10° 47'. 9	165° 45'. 0	17
Thence to Point 61 above			

**THE DUFF ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO**

76. On Tuleki I.	09° 45'.35	167° 03'. 6	17
77. On Papa I.	09° 48'. 6	167° 05'. 8	17
78. Off Taumako I.	09° 53'. 6	167° 10'. 5	17
79. On Loteva I.	09° 55'. 8	167° 14'. 8	17
80. On the Islet	09° 55'.05	167° 14'. 8	17
81. On Taumako I.	09° 52'.05	167° 11'.55	17
82. On the Islet	09° 46'. 5	167° 05'. 3	17
83. On Tuleki I.	09° 45'.55	167° 04'. 1	17
Thence to Point 76 above.			

Dated at Honiara this twentieth day of August, 1979.

PETER KENILOREA  
Prime Minister