Oceans Lexplorer

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs

Web portal for the dissemination of deposits of straight baselines and outer limits of maritime zones

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Strengthening the existing system for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on the law of the sea and related matters and developing, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations, a centralized system with integrated databases for providing coordinated information and advice, inter alia, on legislation and marine policy, taking into account chapter 17, paragraph 17.117 (e), of Agenda 21, 9/ as well as establishing a system for notifying Member States and relevant international organizations and bodies of information of general interest submitted by States and intergovernmental bodies;

General Assembly resolution A/RES/49/28

(c) Developing and maintaining the appropriate facilities for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, and to give due publicity thereto, as required by article 16, paragraph 2, article 47, paragraph 9, article 75, paragraph 2, article 76, paragraph 9 and article 84, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

(d) Strengthening the existing system for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on ocean affairs and the law of the sea and, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations, furthering the development of a centralized system for providing coordinated information and advice;

General Assembly resolution A/RES/49/28, 11 (c) &(d)

Presentation overview

- Deposit obligation under UNCLOS;
- Due publicity obligation & DOALOS assistance in this regard;
- Technical standards.

Deposit obligation under UNCLOS

- Straight baselines and closing lines of mouths of rivers and of bays (article 16);
- Archipelagic baselines (article 47);
- The outer limits of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf (articles 16, 75, and 84), including the lines of delimitation.

Deposit obligation under UNCLOS

Current situation of deposits:

- 66 coastal States made 114 mainly partial deposits;
- The information is in a format of paper charts and/or list of geographic coordinates as required by 1982 UNCLOS.

■ Due publicity obligation & DOALOS assistance in this regard

DOALOS website: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.html

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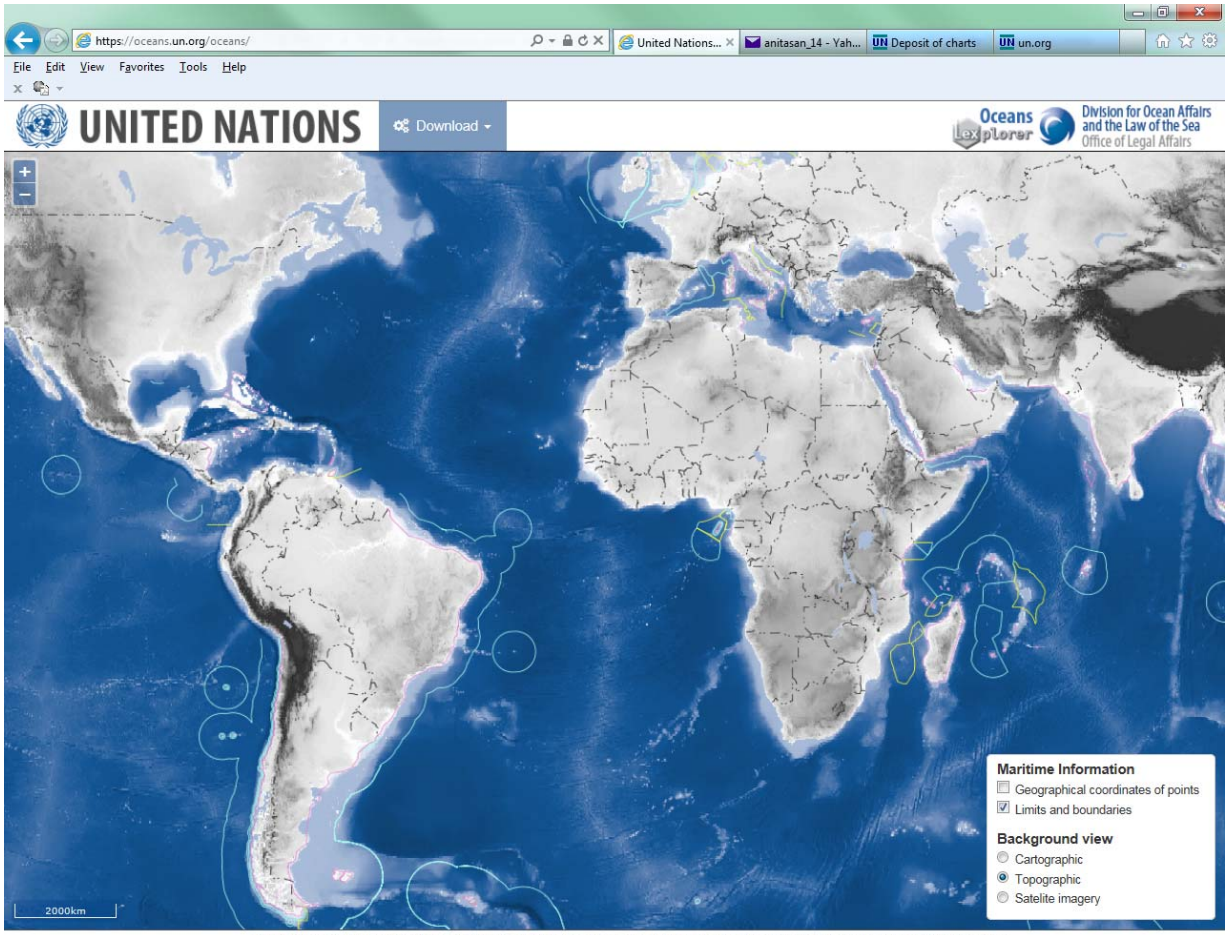
Due publicity obligation & DOALOS assistance in this regard



Technical standards

Assumptions made in absence of specific instructions in the deposits:

- straight baselines were generated as geodesic lines connecting deposited points (45);
- outer limits of maritime zones were generated as geodesic lines connecting deposited points (44);
- outer limits of maritime zones were generated at a distance from normal baseline (21);
- Known datum converted to WGS 84 (21);
- Assumed datum converted to WGS 84 (13);
- normal baselines were generated from deposited charts (5);
- outer limits of maritime zones were generated from deposited charts (2);
- outer limits of maritime zones were generated at a distance from straight baselines (2);
- outer limits of maritime zones were generated at a distance from baseline points with submitted geographic coordinates (1).

Technical standards

GA action

A/RES/59/24, 4 February 2005

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the existing Geographic Information System for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted in compliance with the Convention, and to give due publicity thereto, in particular by implementing, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the International Hydrographic Organization, the technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the information deposited, in order to ensure compatibility among the Geographic Information System, electronic nautical charts and other systems developed by these organizations;"

Technical standards

Background

• Definition of feature classes describing outer limits of maritime zones and international maritime boundaries in S-100;

• Provision of guidance to States Parties to UNCLOS to, if they wish so, structure their deposit for the purpose of data exchange in compliance with this technical standard;

• Design and maintenance of a GIS database based on this technical standard and enable users to seamlessly download the information and use it in their systems and/or ENCs.

•http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/TSMAD/TSMAD19/TSMAD19Docs.htm

Technical Standards

IHO –S 121 Standard

November 2013 in China: “The [Hydrographic Services and Standards] Committee adopted a standardized method for identifying S-100 based product specifications and endorsed the development of a new standard-IHO –S 121-Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification, to be progressed by Geoscience Australia on behalf of the IHO.”

Source: http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC5/Bulletin_report_HSSC5.pdf - see second page

Technical standard

Direct benefits:

- Greater and unified accuracy of the location of outer limits of maritime zone;
- Compliance with other internationally adopted standards and consequently easier integration of the information into products such as electronic nautical charts;
- Guidance for capacity building at national level to maintain national information systems on outer limits of maritime zones and maritime boundaries;
- Reliable and authoritative data available to States at no cost;
- Harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Technical standard

Indirect benefits:

- Increased number of deposits;
- Additional tool to contribute to the safety of navigation;
- Additional tool to contribute to environmental protection including vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- Additional tool to Improve the management of resources.

Thank you for your kind attention !

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