

**Treaty Concerning Delimitation of Marine Areas and Maritime Cooperation
between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama
(2 February 1980)**

The Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama,
Convinced that cooperation is the most effective way of dealing with matters of common interest to nations, especially when they share the same geographic area;
Aware of the advisability and need to delimit their marine areas in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean;
Fully convinced of the need to safeguard their sovereignty and jurisdiction over their respective marine areas, and the need for unimpeded and rapid transit through such areas;
Mutually interested in adopting appropriate measures to protect, preserve, and utilize the resources in the aforementioned areas and to prevent, control, and eliminate pollution in those areas;
Have resolved to conclude a Treaty and, to that end, have appointed their plenipotentiaries as follows:
His Excellency the President of the Republic of Costa Rica: His Excellency Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, Minister of Foreign Relations; and
His Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama: His Excellency Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Article 1

[The Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama have decided] to establish as the boundary between their marine areas the following lines:

- A. Caribbean Sea (1)
- B. Pacific Ocean (2)

(1) In the Caribbean Sea: The median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of each State is measured in accordance with public international law; from the termination of the land boundary between the two countries, at a point located in the mouth of the Sixaola River, latitude 09°34'16"North, longitude 82°34'00"West, along a straight line to a point located at latitude 10°49'00"North, longitude 81°26'08.2"West, where the boundaries of Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama intersect.

(2) In the Pacific Ocean: The median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of each State is measured in accordance with international public law; the boundary between the maritime areas of the two countries shall consist of a straight line starting at the southernmost point of the land boundary at Punta Burica and terminating at a point at latitude 05° 00' 00" North and longitude 84° 19' 00" West.

Additional Clause: The lines and points agreed upon are shown on the nautical chart which is signed by the plenipotentiaries and is attached to this treaty as an annex with the agreement that, in all cases, the text of this treaty shall prevail.

Article 2

[The parties will] accept and respect the ways in which each of the two States currently exercises, or may exercise in the future, its sovereignty, jurisdiction, protection, control, or rights in the marine areas adjacent to its coasts, as delimited by this treaty, in accordance with the measures that each country has established or may establish in the future and with the regulations of its domestic law.

Article 3

The Republic of Panama, in view of the great importance of specific recognition by the Republic of Costa Rica, as a neighboring country, of the Gran Golfo de Panamá (Gulf of Panama) as an historic bay, has requested such recognition from Costa Rica.

The Republic of Costa Rica, aware that its specific recognition that the Gran Golfo de Panamá (Gulf of Panama) has the nature of an historic bay is very important insofar as the incontestability of that nature is concerned, declares that it does not object to the provisions to that effect set forth by the Republic of Panama in its Law No. 9 of January 30, 1956.

Article 4

[The parties will] cooperate fully in order to protect the renewable and non-renewable resources within the marine areas over which they exercise, or will exercise in the future, sovereignty, jurisdiction, or surveillance, and in order to utilize such resources for the benefit of their own countries.

Article 5

[The parties will] encourage the fullest international cooperation in order to coordinate the conservation measures each State applies in the areas of the sea under its sovereignty or jurisdiction, especially with respect to migratory species, taking into consideration the recommendations of competent agencies and the most reliable, up-to-date scientific data. Such international cooperation will not impair the sovereign right of each State to adopt, within the framework of its own marine jurisdiction, any rules and regulations that it deems appropriate.

Article 6

[The parties will] mutually facilitate in every way possible the development and utilization of living resources in their marine areas.

Article 7

Each party will cooperate with the other, to the best of its ability, in applying the most appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment that may affect the neighboring State, regardless of the source. To that end, they will coordinate their efforts to the extent possible under domestic law.

Article 8

[The parties will] cooperate fully in encouraging expeditious movement of international navigation in the seas subject to each State's sovereignty or jurisdiction.

Article 9

Ratification of this treaty will be subject to the constitutional process of each of the contracting parties. The treaty will enter into force upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification in Panama City.