

Beaufort Sea

The USA claims a maritime boundary based on equidistance from the termination of the land boundary on the 141st meridian. The Canadian position, based on our interpretation of the language of Article III of the 1825 Russian-British Convention of St. Petersburg, is that the maritime boundary should follow the 141st meridian -- in effect a direct seaward extension of the land boundary.

Lincoln Sea

In 1977, Canada declared a 200 mile fishing zone in the Arctic and drew the boundary of this zone in the Lincoln Sea on the principle of an equidistance line from baselines drawn according to the sinuosities of the coasts of Canada and Greenland. In 1980, Denmark drew straight baselines around Greenland, using certain small islands in the Lincoln Sea as basepoints. An equidistance line drawn from these straight baselines would vary slightly from one based on the coastal sinuosities.

Recent Developments

In December 1986, and again in September 1987, Canada delivered a strong protest against a proposed sale of oil and gas leases in areas subject to Canadian jurisdiction in the Beaufort Sea. Canada continues to monitor developments closely and to present its views to the United States, as necessary, in order to protect Canada's legal position.