

**Treaty between Uruguay and Argentina concerning the Río de la Plata and the
Corresponding Maritime Boundary
19 November 1973**

The Governments of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic, motivated by the same spirit of friendship and harmony as characterized the Ramírez-Sáenz Peña Protocol of 1910 and reaffirmed by the Joint Declaration on the Outer Limit of the Río de la Plata of 1961 and the Río de la Plata Protocol of 1964, motivated also by the common desire to remove the difficulties which might arise from any absence of precise legislation with regard to the exercise of their equal rights over the Río de la Plata and from the failure to define the limit between their respective maritime jurisdictions, and determined to lay the bases for broader co-operation between the two countries and strengthen the close bonds of traditional friendship and deep affection that join their peoples, have decided to conclude a treaty which will resolve these issues once and for all according to the special characteristics of the river and maritime territories involved and the technical requirements of their full use and exploitation, within the context of respect for the sovereignty and respective rights and interests of the two States.

For this purpose they have appointed as their plenipotentiaries: the Eastern Republic of Uruguay: Dr. Juan Carlos Blanco, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the Argentine Republic: Mr. Alberto J. Vignes, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

**PART ONE
RIO DE LA PLATA**

**CHAPTER I
JURISDICTION**

Article 1

The Río de la Plata extends from the Punta Gorda parallel to the imaginary straight line joining Punta del Este (Eastern Republic of Uruguay) to Punta Rasa del Cabo San Antonio (Argentine Republic), in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty concerning the boundary constituted by the River Uruguay of 7 April 1961 and the Joint Declaration on the Outer Limit of the Río de la Plata, of 30 January 1961.

Article 2

A belt of exclusive jurisdiction is hereby established adjacent to each Party's coasts on the river.

This coastal belt shall be seven nautical miles wide between the outer limit of the river and the imaginary straight line joining Colonia (Eastern Republic of Uruguay) to Punta Lara (Argentine Republic), and two nautical miles wide from this latter line to the Punta Gorda parallel. However, its outer limits shall be inflected as necessary so that they do not go beyond the edges of channels in waters shared by the Parties and so that port access channels are included.

Such limits shall be no closer than 500 metres to the edges of channels situated in shared waters, nor shall they be more than 500 metres from the edges and the mouth of port access channels.

Article 3

Outside the coastal belts, each Party's jurisdiction shall also apply to vessels flying its flag.

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choice set forth in the domestic regulations of each Party.

However, the task of salvaging a vessel flying the flag of either of the Parties and stricken in a channel located in their shared waters shall be carried out by the authority or corporations of the Party administering that channel when the stricken vessel constitutes an obstacle or a threat to navigation in the channel.

Article 39

The salvaging of a vessel flying the flag of a third State shall be carried out by the authority or corporations of the Party whose coastal belt is closest to the place where the vessel requesting assistance is located.

However, the task of salvaging a vessel flying the flag of a third State and stricken in a channel located in their shared waters shall be carried out by the authority or corporations of the Party administering that channel.

Article 40

Without prejudice to articles 38 and 39, when the authority or corporations of the Party responsible for salvaging are unable to perform that task, it may be carried out by the authority or corporations of the other Party.

The inability to salvage referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be communicated immediately to the other Party.

**CHAPTER VII
BED AND SUBSOIL**

Article 41

Each Party may explore and exploit the resources of the bed and subsoil of the river in the areas adjacent to its own coastline, up to the line determined by the following geographical points traced on the charts made by the Uruguayan-Argentine Joint Commission for the Comprehensive Surveying of the Río de la Plata, published by the Naval Hydrographic Service of the Argentine Republic, which form part of this Treaty:

Chart H-118 Points	Second edition 1972 Latitude South	Longitude West
1	33° 55.0'	58° 25.3'
2	33° 57.3'	58° 24.3'
3	34° 00.0'	58° 22.6'
4	34° 02.3'	58° 20.7'
5	34° 06.2'	58° 20.0'
6	34° 07.4'	58° 19.4'
7	34° 09.0'	58° 19.0'
8	34° 10.0'	58° 17.6'
9	34° 12.0'	58° 15.1'
10	34° 13.3'	58° 12.5'
11	34° 15.2'	58° 10.0'
12	34° 17.7'	58° 05.5'
13	34° 20.0'	58° 03.9'
14	34° 21'7"	58° 01.2'
15	34° 22.8'	58° 00.6'
16	34° 26.6'	57° 56.4'
17	34° 33.0'	57° 56.1'

Article 69

If the Commission is unable to reach an agreement within a period of 120 days, it shall so notify the two Parties which shall attempt to resolve the issue by means of direct negotiations.

**PART TWO
MARITIME BOUNDARY****CHAPTER XIV
MARITIME LATERAL LIMIT****Article 70**

The maritime lateral limit, and that of the continental shelf, between the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic shall be the line of equidistance determined by the adjacent coasts method, starting from the mid-point of the baseline constituted by the imaginary straight line joining Punta del Este (Eastern Republic of Uruguay) to Punta Rasa del Cabo San Antonio (Argentine Republic).

Article 71

A mineral deposit which extends on both sides of the limit established in article 70 shall be mined in such a way that the volumes of the resource extracted from that deposit are shared proportionally to the overall volume of the deposit to be found on each side of that limit.

Each Party shall mine such mineral deposits without causing significant damage to the other Party and in accordance with the requirements of a thorough and rational use of the resource in keeping with the criterion established in the first paragraph.

**CHAPTER XV
NAVIGATION****Article 72**

Both Parties hereby guarantee freedom of navigation on and flight over the seas under their respective jurisdictions beyond 12 nautical miles measured from the corresponding baselines and, in the mouth of the Río de la Plata, from its outer limit, without any restrictions other than those deriving from the exercise by each Party of its powers with regard to the exploration, conservation and exploitation of resources: environmental protection and preservation; scientific research and the construction and installation of facilities; and the powers referred to in article 86.

**CHAPTER XVI
FISHING****Article 73**

The Parties hereby agree to establish a common fishing zone, beyond 12 nautical miles measured from the corresponding