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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 55

CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TERRITORIAL SEA BOUNDARIES

POLAND-SOVIET UNION

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the continental shelf of maritime nations.

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Territorial Sea and Continental Shelf Boundaries: Poland-Soviet Union

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Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Governments of Poland and the Soviet Union have ratified two agreements delimiting their respective spheres of maritime jurisdiction in the Baltic Sea. The territorial sea boundary was signed on March 18, 1958, and ratified on July 29, 1958, at which time the Agreement entered into force. The continental shelf boundary was signed on August 29, 1969, and ratified by Poland on December 29, 1969, and by the Soviet Union on May 13, 1970. It came into force May 13, 1970. Both Poland and the Soviet Union are parties to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf.

Territorial Sea Boundary

The territorial sea boundary (TSB) agreement was set forth in the following:

> PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE DELIMITATION OF POLISH AND SOVIET TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE GULF OF GDANSK OF THE BALTIC SEA
>
> Signed at Warsaw, March 18, 1958. 340 UNTS 94.

(Excerpt)

The Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Desiring to delimit Polish and Soviet territorial waters in the Gulf of Gdansk of the Baltic Sea and thus contribute to the strengthening of good-neighborly relations between the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Have decided to conclude this Protocol to the Treaty of March 5, 1957, between the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the demarcation of existing Polish-Soviet State frontier in the sector adjoining the Baltic Sea and have for that purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The Government of the Polish People's Republic:
Kazimierz Korolezyk, Deputy Departmental Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

The Government of the Union of Socialist Republics:
Dimitry Ivanovich Zaikin, Minister;

who having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1. The boundary separating the territorial waters of the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall follow a line perpendicular to the shoreline at the terminal point of the Polish-Soviet State frontier on the Baltiiskaya Kosa (Mierzeja Wislana) and running to the point of intersection with the outer limit of the territorial waters

of the Polish People's Republic. An extension of this line in the same direction to the point of intersection with the outer limit of the territorial waters of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall constitute the boundary of the territorial waters of the Soviet Union.

Article 2. The Contracting Parties shall entrust all work relating to the delimitation of Polish and Soviet territorial waters in the Gulf of Gdansk of the Baltic Sea to the existing Mixed Polish-Soviet Commission for demarcation of the State frontier between the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the sector adjoining the Baltic Sea.
The Mixed Commission shall complete its work by August 1, 1958.
The expenses connected with these activities shall be shared equally between the Contracting Parties.

Article 3. This Protocol is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.
The exchange of the instruments of ratification shall take place at Moscow as soon as possible.

DONE at Warsaw on March 18, 1958, in duplicate, in t he Polish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Polish People's Republic: K. Korolczyk

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: D. Zaikin

Analysis

The TSB is a line perpendicular to the coast which extends seaward from the terminal point of the Poland-Soviet Union land boundary for a distance of 12 nautical miles (n.m.). The agreement specifies that the TSB is applicable to the respective territorial sea claims of the two states, i.e., the Polish TSB is 3 n.m. long and the Soviet Union's 12 n.m. The seaward terminal of the TSB also marks the initial point of the respective continental shelf boundaries.

Gulf of Gdansk

An additional maritime boundary has been delimited in the boundary area: the straight baseline for the Polish sector of the Gulf of Gdansk. Decree No. 9 of the Dziennik Ustaw (Journal of Laws) Nr. 51 of 1956, Article 4, states that the Gulf of Gdansk is closed by a line connecting the Hel Promontory with the seaward point of the Polish-Soviet land boundary.

The Polish closing line is 29.6 n.m. long, more than Convention-approved length for a juridical bay. Enclosed within the gulf of Gdansk is the Bay of Puck which forms an arm of the larger Gulf. The limits of the Gulf delimited by the closing line meet the semicircularity

test of the Convention on the Territorial Sea.

Continental Shelf Boundary

The continental shelf boundary (CSB) between Poland and the Soviet Union was delimited by the following agreement:

POLAND-U.S.S.R.: TREATY ON THE COURSE OF THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF GDANSK AND THE SOUTHEASTERN BALTIC SEA

Signed at Warsaw on 29 August 1969; came into force on 13 May 1970. English translation at International Legal Materials, vol. 9 (1970), p. 697.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the State Council of the Polish People's Republic,
Being guided by the desire to deepen and broaden the good-neighborly and friendly relations existing between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish People's Republic,
Desiring to delimit the continental shelf between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish People's Republic in the Gulf of Gdansk and the southeastern part of the Baltic Sea,
Taking into account the provisions of the Geneva Convention of April 29, 1958, on the Continental Shelf,
Affirming the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Continental Shelf of the Baltic Sea, signed by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Polish People's Republic, and the German Democratic Republic on October 23, 1968, at Moscow,
Have decided to conclude the present Treaty and for this purpose have appointed their plenipotentiaries:
[here follow the names of the plenipotentiaries]
Who, after exchanging their credentials, found to be in good and proper form,
Have agreed on the following:

Art. 1. The line equidistant from the nearest points of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial waters of each of the Contracting Parties is measured shall be, with insignificant deviations, the boundary of the continental shelf between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish People's Republic in the Gulf of Gdansk and the southeastern part of the Baltic Sea.
The line shall begin from the junction point of the seaward boundary of Polish territorial waters with the line delimiting the territorial waters of the U.S.S.R. and P.P.R. established by the Protocol between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Polish People's Republic on the Delimitation of Soviet and Polish Territorial Waters in the Gulf of Gdansk of the Baltic Sea of March 18, 1958, shall pass along the boundary line of the territorial waters of the U.S.S.R. to its terminal point, and then

in the same direction to Point A, at geographic coordinates 54°40.2'N. lat. and 19°18.9'E. long., and further through the points with geographic coordinates:

B. 54°48.9'N lat. 19°20.7E. long.
C. 55°20.8'N lat. 19°03.8E. long.
D. 55°51.0'N lat. 18°56.2E. long.

and then up to the junction point of the boundaries of the continental shelves of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Polish People's Republic, and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Art. 2. The boundary line of the continental shelf between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish People's Republic specified in Article 1 has been designated on Sea Chart No. 1150 attached to the present Treaty, published in 1966 by the Hydrographic Administration of the Ministry of Defense of the U.S.S.R., which constitutes an integral part of the present treaty.

Art. 3. The provisions of the present Treaty shall in no way affect the legal status of the high seas superjacent to the continental shelf nor the legal status of the air space over these waters.

Art. 4. The present Treaty shall be registered at the Secretariat of the United Nations in conformity with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

Art. 5. The present Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the day of the exchange of instruments of ratification, which shall be performed at Moscow as soon as possible.

Done at Warsaw, August 28, 1969, in two copies, each in the Russian and Polish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Analysis

The CSB between Poland and the Soviet Union extends for a distance of 77.5 n.m. with an average length of 19.4 n.m. for each segment of the boundary.

The entire area covered by the Agreement lies on the continental shelf of the Baltic Sea.[1] The average depth along the CSB is about 50 fathoms.

[1] The physical shelf is defined as that submarine area which is less than 200 meters (108 fathoms) in depth.

Physical Characteristics of the Poland-Soviet Union Continental Shelf Boundary

CSB (Point)	Dist. Between Pts. (n.m.)	Water Depth (fathoms)	Polish Territory	Dist. Land to CSB Point (n.m.)	Soviet Territory
X		43	Poland-Soviet Union land boundary	(12)	Poland-Soviet Union land boundary
	4.9				
A		49	Hel	(16.8)	Poland-Soviet Union land boundary
	8.7				
B		60	Hel	(20.9)	South of Mys Taran
	33.8				
C		45	Rozewie	(39.0)	Mys Taran
	30.1				
D		60	Rozewie	(64.0)	Mys Taran

Coordinate Conversion Chart:

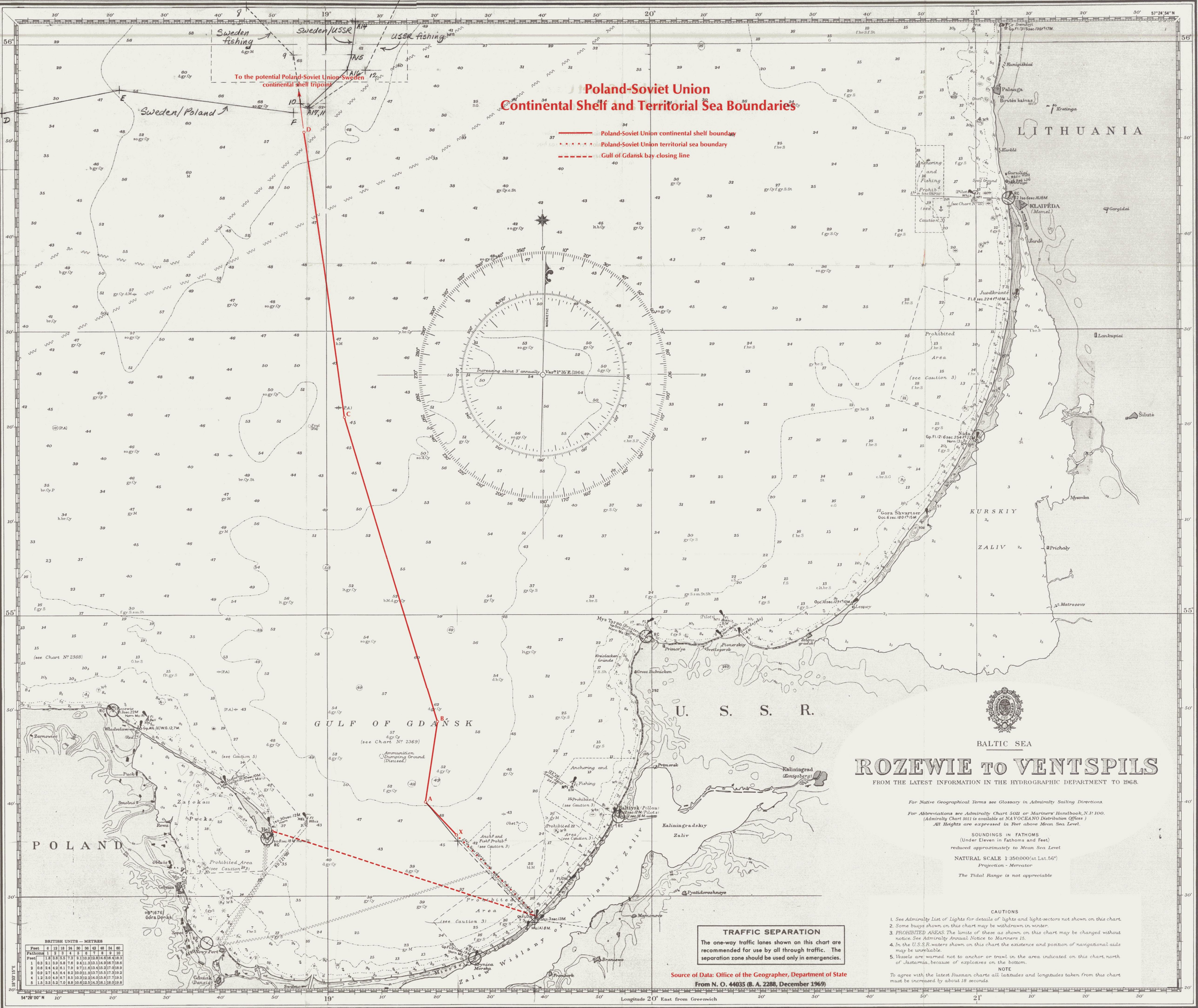
The coordinate values in the continental shelf agreement must be reduced by 18 seconds to agree with U.S. Naval Oceanographic charts. Following are the coordinate values correct to the U.S. chart.

A	54°39'54"	19°18'36"
B	54°48'36"	19°20'24"
C	55°20'30"	19°03'30"
D	55°50'42"	18°55'54"

The CSB agreement explicitly states that the equidistance principle is used in determining the boundary. The five turning points on the boundary are all equidistant from Polish and Soviet territory.

The initial point of the CSB (Point X) is the terminal point of the territorial sea boundary of the Soviet Union. For the purpose of delimiting the TSB and CSB, the Gulf of Gdansk closing line was not used as the Polish baseline from which the boundaries were developed.

The seaward terminal of the CSB (Point D) ends the delimitation of the CSB, but the line will probably be extended to the Poland-Soviet Union-Sweden tripoint at such time as continental shelf boundaries are negotiated between the three parties.



BALTIC SEA

ROZEWIE TO VENTSPILS

FROM THE LATEST INFORMATION IN THE HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT TO 1968.

For Native Geographical Terms see Glossary in Admiralty Sailing Directions.

For Abbreviations see Admiralty Chart 5011 or Mariners' Handbook, N.P. 100.
(Admiralty Chart 5011 is available at NAVOCEANO Distribution Offices)
All Heights are expressed in Feet above Mean Sea Level.

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
(Under Eleven in Fathoms and Feet)
reduced approximately to Mean Sea Level

NATURAL SCALE 1:350,000 (at Lat. 56°)
Projection - Mercator

The Tidal Range is not appreciable

TRAFFIC SEPARATION

The one-way traffic lanes shown on this chart are recommended for use by all through traffic. The separation zone should be used only in emergencies.

CAUTIONS

1. *See Admiralty List of Lights for details of lights and light-sectors not shown on this chart.*
2. *Some buoys shown on this chart may be withdrawn in winter.*
3. *PROHIBITED AREAS. The limits of these as shown on this chart may be changed without notice. See Admiralty Annual Notice to Mariners 15.*
4. *In the U.S.S.R. waters shown on this chart the existence and position of navigational aids may be unreliable.*
5. *Vessels are warned not to anchor or trawl in the area indicated on this chart, north of Jastarnia, because of explosives on the bottom.*

NOTE

To agree with the latest Russian charts all latitudes and longitudes taken from this chart must be increased by about 18 seconds.

BRITISH UNITS — METRES

Feet		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
Fathoms		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Feet		1.8	3.6	5.5	7.3	9.1	10.9	12.8	14.6	16.4	18.3
1	0.3	2.1	3.9	5.8	7.6	9.4	11.3	13.1	14.9	16.7	18.6
2	0.6	2.4	4.2	6.1	7.9	9.7	11.6	13.4	15.2	17.0	18.9
3	0.9	2.7	4.5	6.4	8.2	10.0	11.9	13.7	15.5	17.3	19.2
4	1.2	3.0	4.9	6.7	8.5	10.3	12.2	14.0	15.8	17.7	19.5
5	1.5	3.3	5.2	7.0	8.8	10.6	12.5	14.3	16.1	18.0	19.8

Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State
From N. O. 44035 (B. A. 2288, December 1969)