

MarineRegions' Maritime Boundaries - A world reference for global fisheries research

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MarineRegions is a global geographic database containing (i) international marine and maritime boundaries and (ii) marine placenames.

The basis for the Maritime Boundaries dataset is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which was signed in 1982 and came into force in 1994. This convention has defined a series of maritime zones (internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf) and establishes the degree of rights and obligations of a country in each of those areas. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a country's basic geo-unit for the management and scientific research of marine natural resources. Despite the strategic significance of EEZs, a standard dataset with maritime boundaries was not available at the global level until it was developed and made available by the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) (Claus et al., 2014). Currently, the MarineRegions products are being used as essential datasets in global ocean conservation initiatives such as Sea Around Us (Zeller et al., 2016), Global Fishing Watch (Kroodsma et al., 2018) and the Ocean Health Index (Halpern et al., 2012).

In this demonstration, we illustrate how users can explore, download and use the MarineRegions datasets through MarineRegions.org and by various web service applications. Moreover, we highlight how our products are essential for global fisheries research. Prof. dr. Daniel Pauly, founder of the Sea Around Us project, and Global Fishing Watch CTO Paul Woods testify how the MarineRegions products are used in their research and why they are essential for their work.

MarineRegions is accessible through MarineRegions.org and by various web service applications.

References

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Keywords: Maritime boundaries; Marine Regions; International research; Dataset; Fisheries