

THE USE OR ABUSE OF “NORMAL” TERRITORIAL SEA BASELINES

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Abstract

One would think that the use of the low water line to define the normal baseline of the territorial sea would be without reproach. Yet the author has seen occasions when, often for technical reasons, the low water line produces unusual situations which can affect the location of the maritime jurisdictional limits and international maritime boundaries. Technical experts assisting government regulation writers, negotiating teams, arbitration pleaders, and the judiciary need to be aware of the origin, significance, and impact of these peculiarities. The author will demonstrate his experiences with examples from Canada, Greenland, Barbados and Suriname.