

Act No. 205 of 19 December 1979 on the Continental Shelf and Adjacent Sea

Article 1

The continental shelf of Nicaragua, throughout its extension, is an integral part and a natural prolongation of national territory, and is accordingly for all purposes subject to the sovereignty of the Nicaraguan nation.

Article 2

The sovereignty and jurisdiction of Nicaragua extends over the sea adjacent to its seacoasts for 200 nautical miles.

Article 3

The sovereignty and national jurisdiction over the continental shelf and adjacent sea also embraces and extends over the airspace as well as all islands, keys, shoals, reefs and other geographic irregularities existing within the defined limits of the preceding articles, be they exposed or submerged, adherent to or emergent from the continental shelf.

Article 4

The adjacent sea of 200 nautical miles is open to the innocent passage of merchant vessels from other nations, in keeping with the manner and conditions which determine Nicaraguan domestic law and international treaties and agreements.

Article 5

All of the wealth and all natural resources comprised within these zones of sovereignty and jurisdiction are the patrimony of the Nicaraguan nation and independent of the real or fictitious occupation of Nicaragua in the previously defined zones.

The exploration, exploitation, utilization and administration of such natural resources are the exclusive right of Nicaragua without prejudice to the rights and obligations contracted through international treaties and agreements.

Abrogation

Article 6

The present Act abrogates all previous provisions which are in conflict with it.