

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8764



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill adopts the proposal of former Supreme Court Justice Francis Jardeleza to define applicable baselines in the West Philippine Sea through legislation. This measure appears to be the most inexpensive and yet most effective means of enforcing the Arbitral Award and strengthening our territorial and maritime rights in the West Philippine Sea.

Firstly, it identifies by name and coordinates at least 100 features being claimed and occupied by the Philippines. This is an exercise of acts of sovereignty pertaining to each and every feature, consistent with the requirements of international law on the establishment and maintenance of territorial title. Secondly, it adopts normal baselines around each feature that qualifies as a hightide elevation. This is to delineate the TS of each of said feature. Thirdly, it reiterates continuing Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, as appropriate, over these features.

The bill not only enforces the Award but also ensures that the Philippines is the first claimant to legislate the individual names and baselines of the claimed features.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
IDENTIFYING THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME FEATURES OF THE WEST
PHILIPPINE SEA, DEFINING THEIR RESPECTIVE APPLICABLE BASELINES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Maritime Features of the West Philippine Sea Act.*”

Sec. 2. This Act applies to the maritime areas on the western side of the Philippine archipelago collectively named as the “West Philippine Sea” under Administrative Order No. 29, Series of 2012. These areas include the Luzon Sea as well as the waters around, within and adjacent to the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo De Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal.

Sec. 3. The Philippines has sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, as appropriate, over the following identified maritime features in the West Philippine Sea, without prejudice to other such features that will be discovered or established as part of Philippine sovereignty or jurisdiction in the future.

Name	Coordinates
1. Abad Santos Shoal	9°26’N, 111°55’E
2. Aguinaldo Reef	To be supplied (TBS)
3. Alicia Annie Reef	9°22’N, 115°26’E

4. Alison Reef	8°51'N, 114°00'E
5. Amboyna Cay	7°51'N, 112°55'E
6. Ardasier (Antonio Luna) Reef	7°38'N, 113°56'E
7. Bajo De Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal)	TBS
8. Ban Than Jiao	10°24'N, 114°24'E
9. Barque Canada Reef	8°10'N, 113°18'E
10. Baybayin Dagat Bank	(TBS)
11. Binago Island	(TBS)
12. Bisugo Shoal	11°19'N, 114°35'E
13. Bombay Castle	7°56'N, 111°42'E
14. Bonifacio (Jacinto and Diego Silang) Reefs	(TBS)
15. Brown	(TBS)
16. Bulig Shoal	9°20'N, 115°56'E
17. Central Reef	8°55'N, 116°11'E
18. Collins Reef	9°45'N, 114°14'E
19. Commodore (Rizal) Reef	8°21'N, 115°17'E
20. Cornwallis South Reef	8°44'N, 114°11'E
21. Coronation Bank	9°21'N, 111°44'E
22. Cuarteron (Calderon) Reef	8°53'N, 112°51'E
23. Dalag Bank	11°01'N, 117°16'E
24. Dalagang Bukid (Investigator NE Shoal) Bank	9°10'N, 116°25'E
25. Dallas Reef	(TBS)
26. Day Shoal	11°26'N, 114°23'E
27. Del Pilar Reef	10°48'N, 116°52'E
28. Dhaulie Shoal	9°32'N, 112°24'E
29. Discovery Great Reef	9°59'N, 113°51'E
30. Discovery Small Reef	10°01'N, 114°01'E
31. Dulong Shoal and Palma Reef	(TBS)
32. East Reef	8°52'N, 112°46'E
33. Eldad Reef	10°21'N, 114°42'E
34. Erica Reef	8°6'N, 114°09'E
35. Fiery Cross Reef	9°37'N, 112°58'E

36. Flat (Patag) Island	10°50'N, 115°49'E
37. Foulerton Reef ¹⁸	(TBS)
38. Gaven Reef (North)	10°13'N, 114°12'E
39. Gitna Reef	(TBS)
40. Gomes Reef	10°16'N, 113°37'E
41. Hirane Shoal	(TBS)
42. Hopkins Reef	10°49'N, 116°06'E
43. Hubo (Handy) Reef	(TBS)
44. Investigator Shoal	08°7'N, 114°29'E
45. Iroquis and Banker Reefs	10°37'N, 116°11'E
46. Irving Reef	10°53'N, 114°56'E
47. Iroquis Ridge	(TBS)
48. Itu Aba (Ligaw Island)	10°23'N, 114°21'E
49. Johnson Patch	(TBS)
50. Johnson Reef	9°43'N, 114°18'E
51. Kahoy Bank	10°35'N, 117°10'E
52. Kalantiyaw Cay	7°53'N, 112°55'E
53. Kanduli Shoal	9°03'N, 116°41'E
54. Kingstorm Shoal	(TBS)
55. Kota Bank	(TBS)
56. Kota (Loaita) Island	10°41'N, 114°25'E
57. Hasa Hasa Shoal	8°54'N, 116°16'E
58. Hizon Reef	8°56'N, 113°40'E
59. Jenkin Patches	(TBS)
60. Jubilee Bank	8°30'N, 116°16'E
61. Ladd Reef	8°38'N, 111°40'E
62. Lagos (Spratley) Island	8°39'N, 111°29'E
63. Lansdowne Reef	9°46'N, 114°22'E
64. Lankiam Cay (Panata Island)	10°44'N, 114°31'E
65. Lapu-Lapu Shoal	10°20'N, 117°22'E
66. Lapu-Lapu Reef	(TBS)
68. Lawak Island	10°44'N, 115°48'E

67. Leslie Bank	11°04'N 117° 28' E
68. Little Patches	(TBS)
69. Louisa Reef	6°20'N, 113°14'E
70. Mabuhangin Shoal	11°02'N 117° 39' E
71. Mahiwagang Diwata	10°38'N 117° 39' E
72. Malvar Reef	10°21'N 114° 42' E
73. Maralie Reef	9°13'N 113° 40' E
74. Maria Louise Bank	11°55'N 116° 47' E
75. Mariano Cay	(TBS)
76. Mariveles Reef	7°59'N, 113°50'E
77. Mascardo Reef	8°04'N, 113°12'E
78. Menzies Reef	11°09'N, 114°48'E
79. Mischief (Panganiban) Reef	9°55'N, 115°32'E
80. Namyt	10°11'N, 114°22'E
81. Nanshan (Lawak Island)	10°45'N, 115°49'E
82. Nares Bank	11°16'N, 116°03'E
83. North Danger Reef	11°N 114°21'E
84. Northeast Shoal	(TBS)
85. Northeast Cay (Parola island)	11°28'N, 114°21'E
86. Orleana Shoal	(TBS)
87. Osmeña Reef	8°57'N, 114°11'E
88. Owen Shoal	(TBS)
89. Pagkakaisa Banks and Reef	(TBS)
90. Paredes Reef	10°01'N, 113°52'E
91. Parola Island	11°27'N, 114°21'E
92. Parola Island Light	11°27'N, 54"N,114°21' 26"E
93. Pearson Reefs	8°58'N, 113°41'E
94. Petley Reef	10°24'N, 114°34'E
95. Pigeon Reef	8°52'N, 114°39'E
96. Pugad Island	(TBS)
97. Quezon Reefs	(TBS)
98. Quirino Atoll	(TBS)

99. Rajah Soliman Reef	9°36'N, 116°10'E
100. Recto Bank	(TBS)
101. Rifleman Bank	(TBS)
102. Rizal Reef	8°21'N, 115°18'E
103. Royal Charlotte Reef	6°56'N, 113°36'E
104. Rurok Island	9°53'N, 114°20'E
105. Sabina Patches	(TBS)
106. Sabina Shoal	(TBS)
107. Sand Cay	10°23'N, 114°28'E
108. Sandy Cay	(TBS)
109. Second Thomas Shoal (Ayungin Shoal)	18° 23'N, 110 2'E
110. Shinko Shoal	(TBS)
111. Sikatuna Shoal	10°06'N, 117°22'E
112. Silangan Reef	(TBS)
113. Sin Cowe	9°52'N, 114°19'E
114. South Reef	11°23'N, 114°18'E
115. Southern Bank	10°41'N, 116°50'E
116. Southwest Cay	11°26'N, 114°20'E
117. Spratly	8°38'N, 114°25'E
118. Stag Shoal	(TBS)
119. Subi Reef	10°54'N, 114°06'E
120. Swallow Reef	7°23'N, 113°48'E
121. Tatlong Tulis Shoal	(TBS)
122. Tennent Reef	8°50'N, 114°36'E
123. Thitu (Pag-Asa Island)	11°03'N, 114°17'E
124. Tizard Bank	10°16'59.33"N, 114°26'37.81"E
125. West Reef	8°52'N, 112°15'E
126. West York (Likas Island)	11°05'N, 115°01'E
127. Whitson Reef (Julian Felipe Reef)	10°00'N, 114°43'E
128. Zamora Reef	10°74'N, 114°06'E

Sec. 4. The breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the coast of each island shall extend to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured seaward from the baselines.

Sec. 5. The breadth of the contiguous zone shall extend to a distance of 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

Sec. 6. The Philippines adopts the following baselines of each identified offshore rock or high tide feature within the West Philippine Sea, without prejudice to the determination of the baselines of other such maritime features over which the Philippines has sovereignty and jurisdiction in the future:

Name	Baselines
1. Abad Santos Shoal	
2. Alicia Annie Reef	
3. Bajo De Masinloc	
4. Baybayin Dagat Bank	
5. Binago Island	
6. Commodore (Rizal) Reef	
7. Cuarteron (Calderon) Reef	
8. Flat (Patag) Island	
9. Fiery Cross (Kagitingan) Reef	
10. Gaven Reef (North)	
11. Hasa Hasa Shoal	
12. Investigator Shoal	
13. Itu Aba (Ligaw Island)	
14. Jacinto Reef	
15. Johnson (Mabini) Reef	
16. Kota Bank	
17. Kota (Loaita) Island	
18. Lagos (Spratley) Island	
19. Lapu Lapu Shoal	
20. Malvar Reef	
21. Mckennan Reef	

22. Nanshan (Lawak Island)	
23. Northeast Cay (Parola Island)	
24. Paredes Reef	
25. Parola Island Light	
26. Quirino Atoll	
27. Royal Charlotte Reef	
28. Rurok Island	
29. Sabina Shoal	
30. Sandy Cay	
31. Sin Cowe Island	
32. Swallow Reef	
33. Tennent Reef	
34. Thitu (Pag-Asa Island)	
35. West York (Likas Island)	

Sec. 7. The rights of the Philippines over the territorial sea and contiguous zone of each maritime feature identified in this Act, as may be applicable, shall be exercised in accordance with Philippine laws and international law, particularly the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as interpreted in the Award dated 12 July 2006 rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal in *In re Arbitration Between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China*, PCA Case No. 2013-19.

Sec. 8. The provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1596, Republic Act No. 9522 and Republic Act No. 3046, as amended by Republic Act No. 5446, and all other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, judgments, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) shall produce and publish charts and maps of the Philippines reflecting this Act, within six (6) months of the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 10. All departments, subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government shall use and employ the designations of the maritime features named and identified in this law in all communications, messages and public documents, to popularize the use of such designations in the general public, both domestically and internationally.

Sec. 11. All departments, subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government shall henceforth use the official Philippine maps and charts produced and published by NAMRIA in accordance with this Act.

For this purpose, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and state universities and colleges (SUCs) shall issue circulars requiring the use of said official Philippine maps in relevant subjects, researches and instructional materials, such as, among other things, text books, instructional materials, electronic, web, social media, and audio-visual presentations.

Sec. 12. The NAMRIA shall ensure compliance with this Act, pursuant to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order (DENR-AO) No. 31 (s. 1988) and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

Sec. 13. The Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and in consultation with NAMRIA and other appropriate government agencies, shall deposit, within six months of its effectivity, a copy of this Act, enclosing the official maps and charts of the Philippines reflecting the aforementioned maritime features, their coordinates, baselines, territorial sea and where applicable, their contiguous zone, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and notify accordingly relevant international organizations, such as the International Hydrographic Organization and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Sec. 14. The Heads of Agencies Concerned Shall Include in their Programs the Implementation of this Act in their Programs, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 15. Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 16. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,