



United Kingdom  
Hydrographic Office

# Punching above their weight?

Issues raised by the regime of islands

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Hydrographic Office

The views expressed during this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent those of the UK Hydrographic Office or any other UK Government Department



“...you will effect a landing and hoist the Union flag...”



## ELIZABETH II



## Island of Rockall Act 1972

## 1972 CHAPTER 2

An Act to make provision for the incorporation of that part of Her Majesty's Dominions known as the Island of Rockall into that part of the United Kingdom known as Scotland, and for purposes connected therewith.

[10th February 1972]

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. As from the date of the passing of this Act, the Island of Rockall (of which possession was formally taken in the name of Her Majesty on 18th September 1955 in pursuance of a Royal Warrant dated 14th September 1955 addressed to the Captain of Her Majesty's Ship Vidal) shall be incorporated into that part of the United Kingdom known as Scotland and shall form part of the District of Harris in the County of Inverness, and the law of Scotland shall apply accordingly.

2. This Act may be cited as the Island of Rockall Act 1972. Short title.

## Article 5 – Normal baseline

Except where otherwise provided in this Convention, the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-waterline along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognised by the coastal State

S.I. No. 174/1959:  
MARITIME JURISDICTION ACT, 1959 (CHARTS) ORDER, 1959.

MARITIME JURISDICTION ACT, 1959 (CHARTS) ORDER, 1959.

The Government, in exercise of the power conferred on them by section 13 of the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959 (No. 22 of 1959), hereby order as follows :

1. This Order may be cited as the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959 (Charts) Order, 1959.
2. Charts published at the Admiralty, London, shall be charts for the purposes of section 13 of the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959 .

GIVEN under the Official Seal of the Government, this 20th day of October, 1959.

SEÁN F. LEMASS,  
Taoiseach.

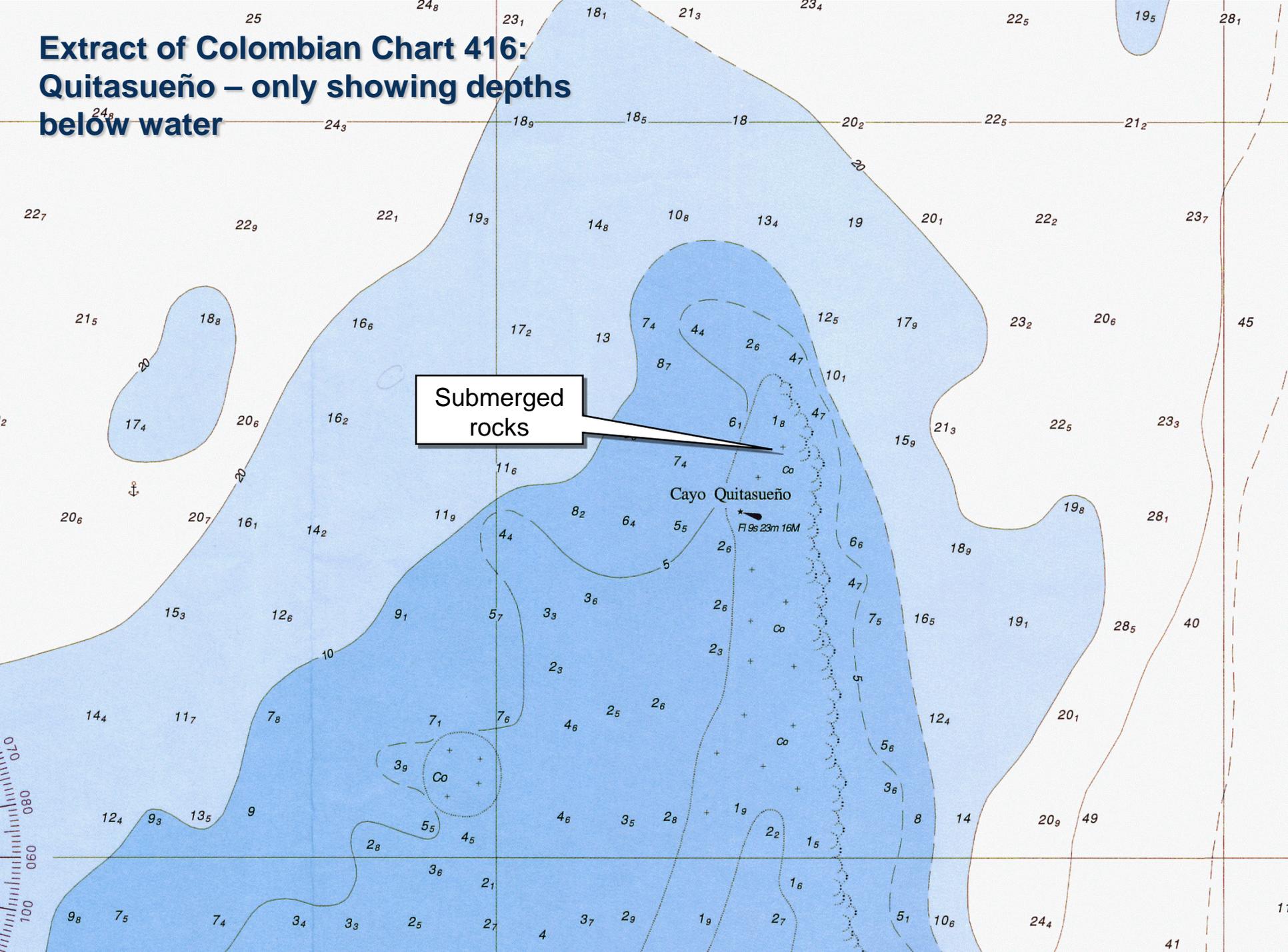
EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The purpose of the Order is to prescribe charts to be used in evidence for the purposes of establishing matters relating to the territorial seas, the exclusive fishery limits and other matters arising under the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959 .

## Article 121 – Regime of islands

1. An island is a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide
2. Except as provided for in paragraph 3, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of an island are determined in accordance with the provisions of this Convention applicable to other land territory
3. Rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own shall have no exclusive economic zone or continental shelf

# Extract of Colombian Chart 416: Quitasueño – only showing depths below water



Submerged  
rocks

Cayo Quitasueño  
Fl 9s 23m 16M

**QS 32**



**QS 32:**

**14° 22' 07.2"N;**

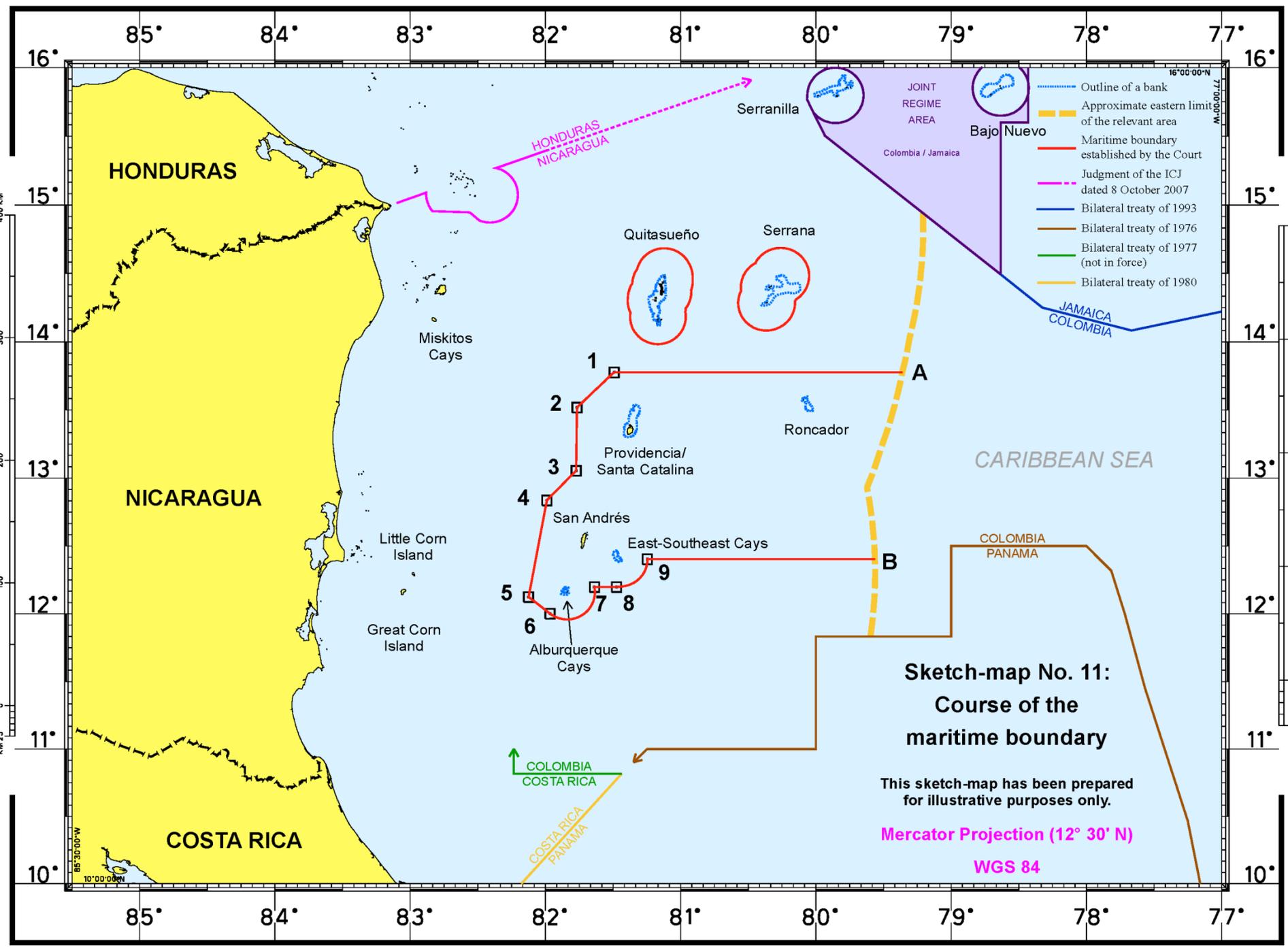
**81° 08' 31.5"W**

**Coral 1.505 meters  
above MSL.**

**Time 10:25**

**Date 1 Dec 09**

**Note the white guano  
on the rock indicating  
that it is above water  
at all times.**



HONDURAS

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICA

Serranilla

Quitasueño

Serrana

Miskitos Cays

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Providencia/  
Santa Catalina

San Andrés

East-Southeast Cays

Albuquerque Cays

Roncador

CARIBBEAN SEA

COLOMBIA  
PANAMA

**Sketch-map No. 11:  
Course of the  
maritime boundary**

This sketch-map has been prepared  
for illustrative purposes only.

Mercator Projection (12° 30' N)

WGS 84

JOINT  
REGIME  
AREA  
Colombia / Jamaica

Bajo Nuevo

JAMAICA  
COLOMBIA

HONDURAS  
NICARAGUA

COLOMBIA  
COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA  
PANAMA

- Outline of a bank
- Approximate eastern limit of the relevant area
- Maritime boundary established by the Court
- Judgment of the ICJ dated 8 October 2007
- Bilateral treaty of 1993
- Bilateral treaty of 1976
- Bilateral treaty of 1977 (not in force)
- Bilateral treaty of 1980

400 KM

300

200

100

0

25 Nautical Miles

16° 00' 00" N

15°

14°

13°

12°

11°

10°

85°

84°

83°

82°

81°

80°

79°

78°

77°

85°

84°

83°

82°

81°

80°

79°

78°

77°

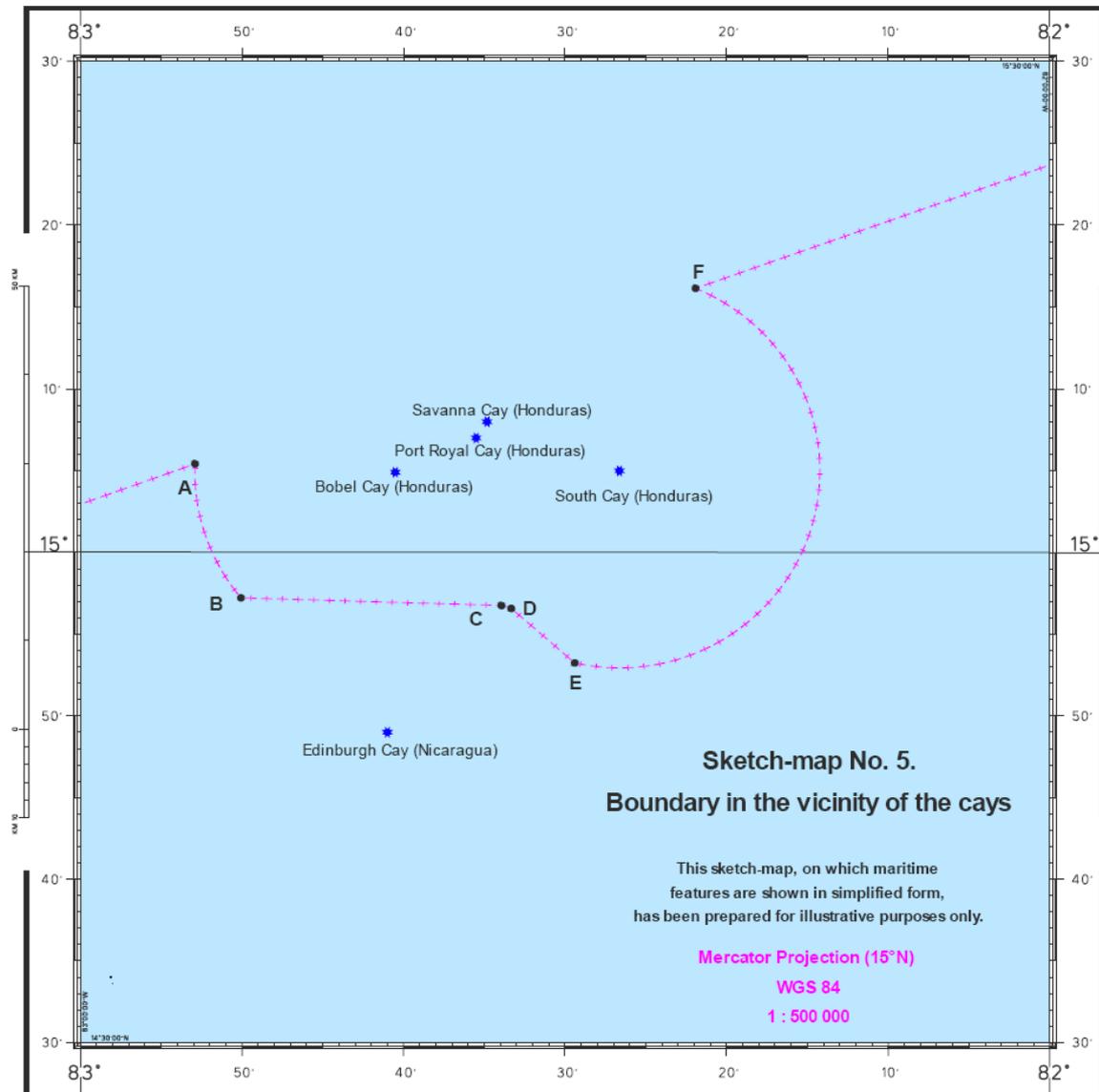
85° 30' 00" W

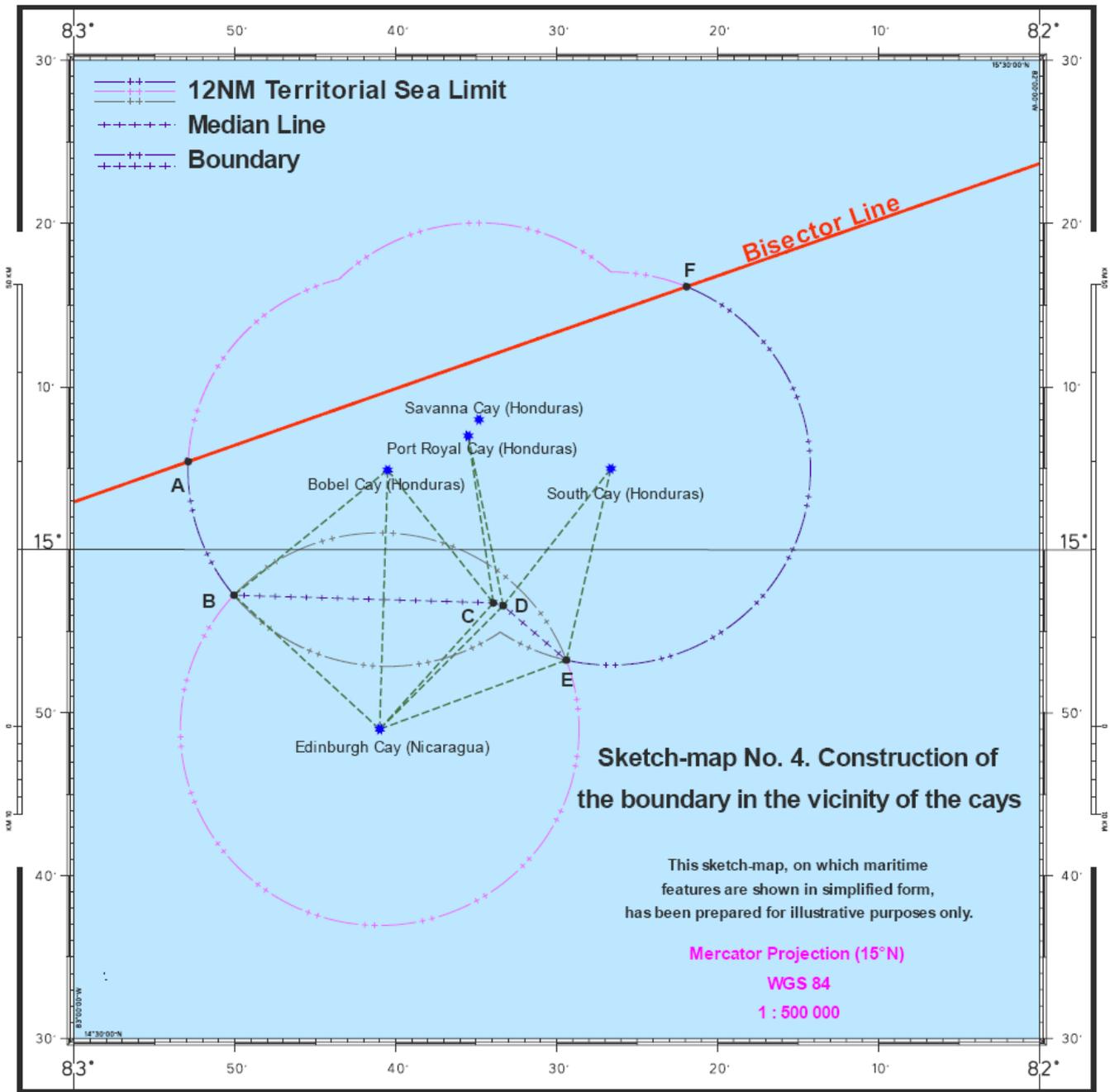
10° 00' 00" N

16° 00' 00" N

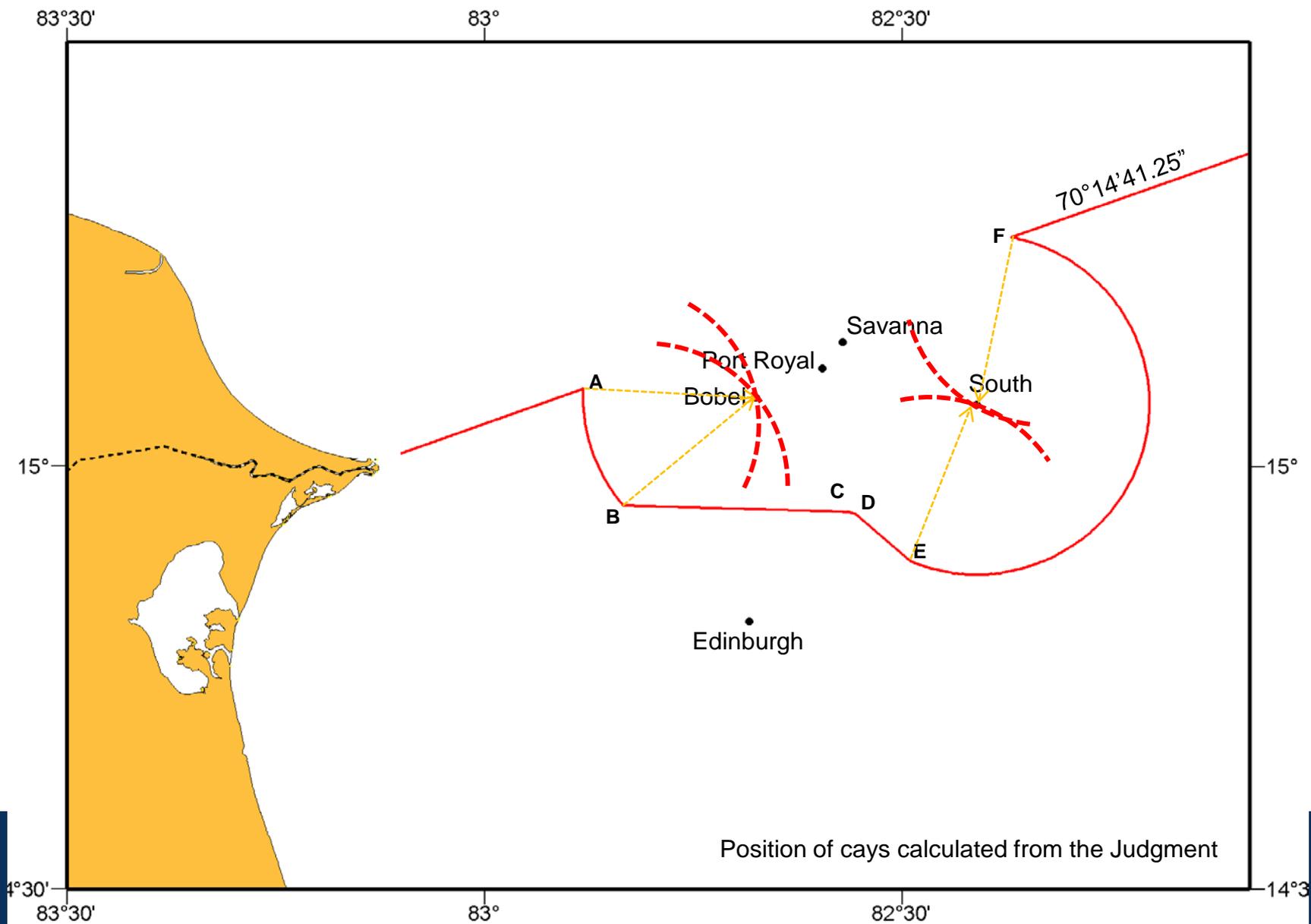
77° 00' 00" W

# Nicaragua - Honduras

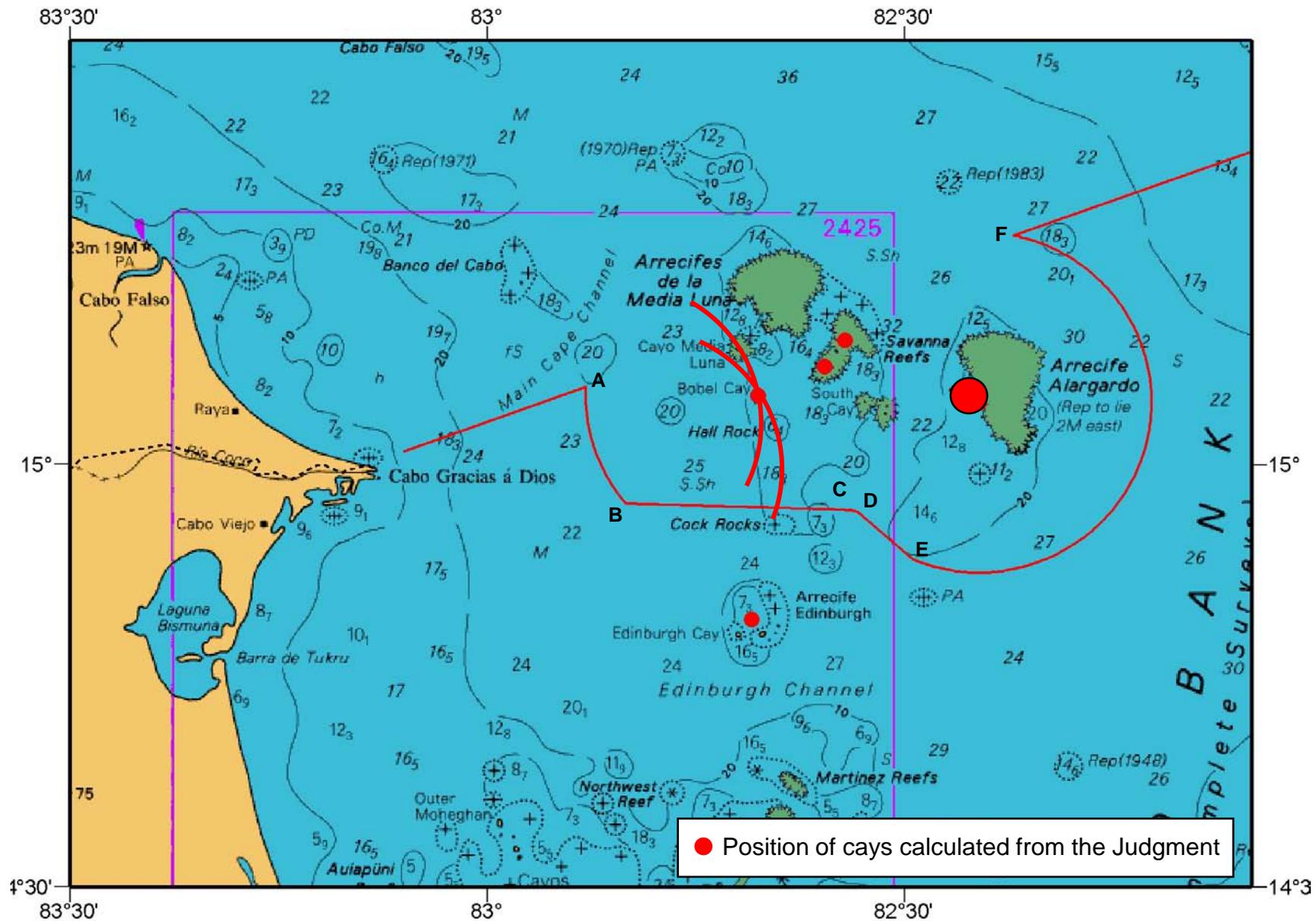




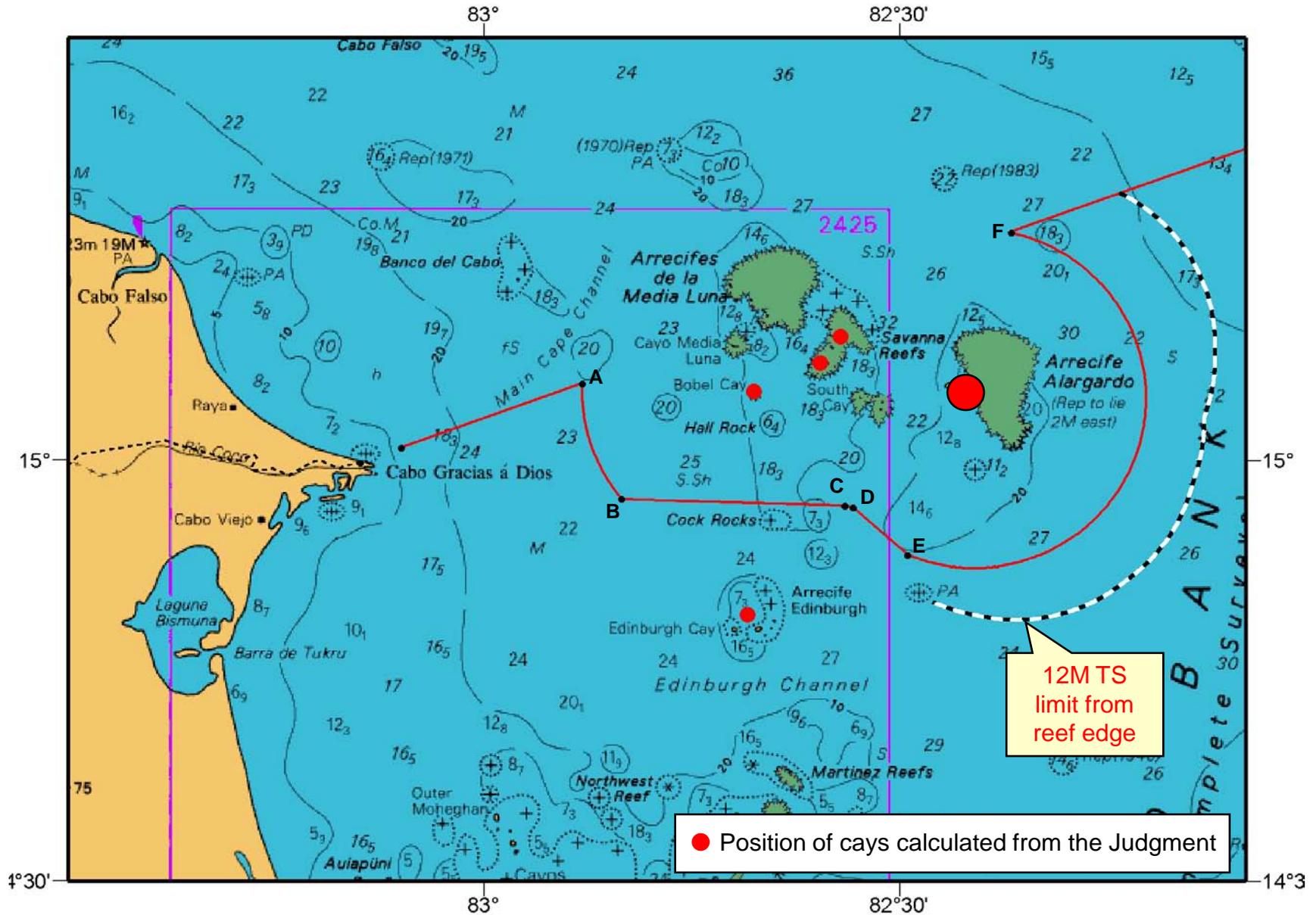
# Position of the Cays



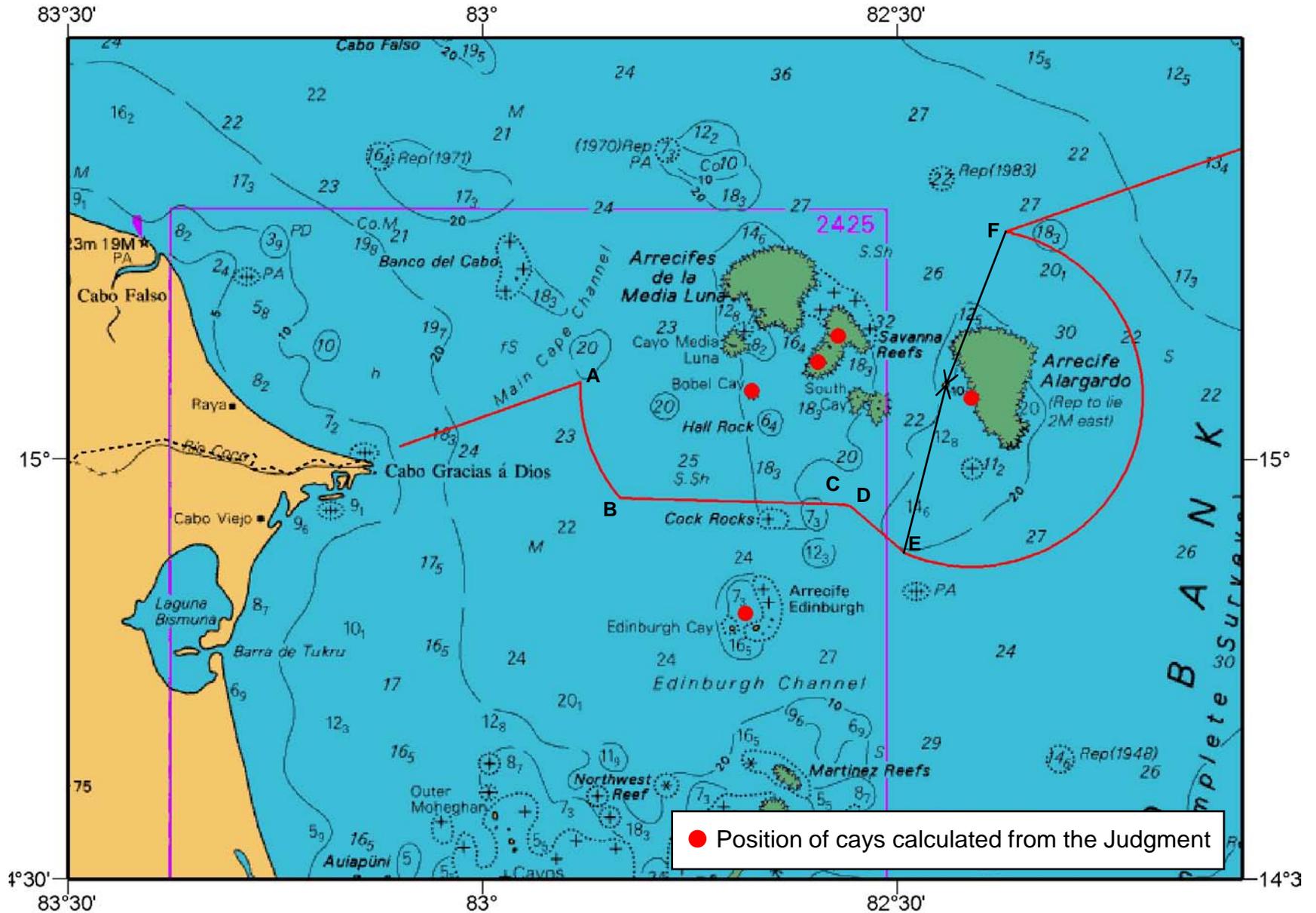
# Cays in relation to reefs



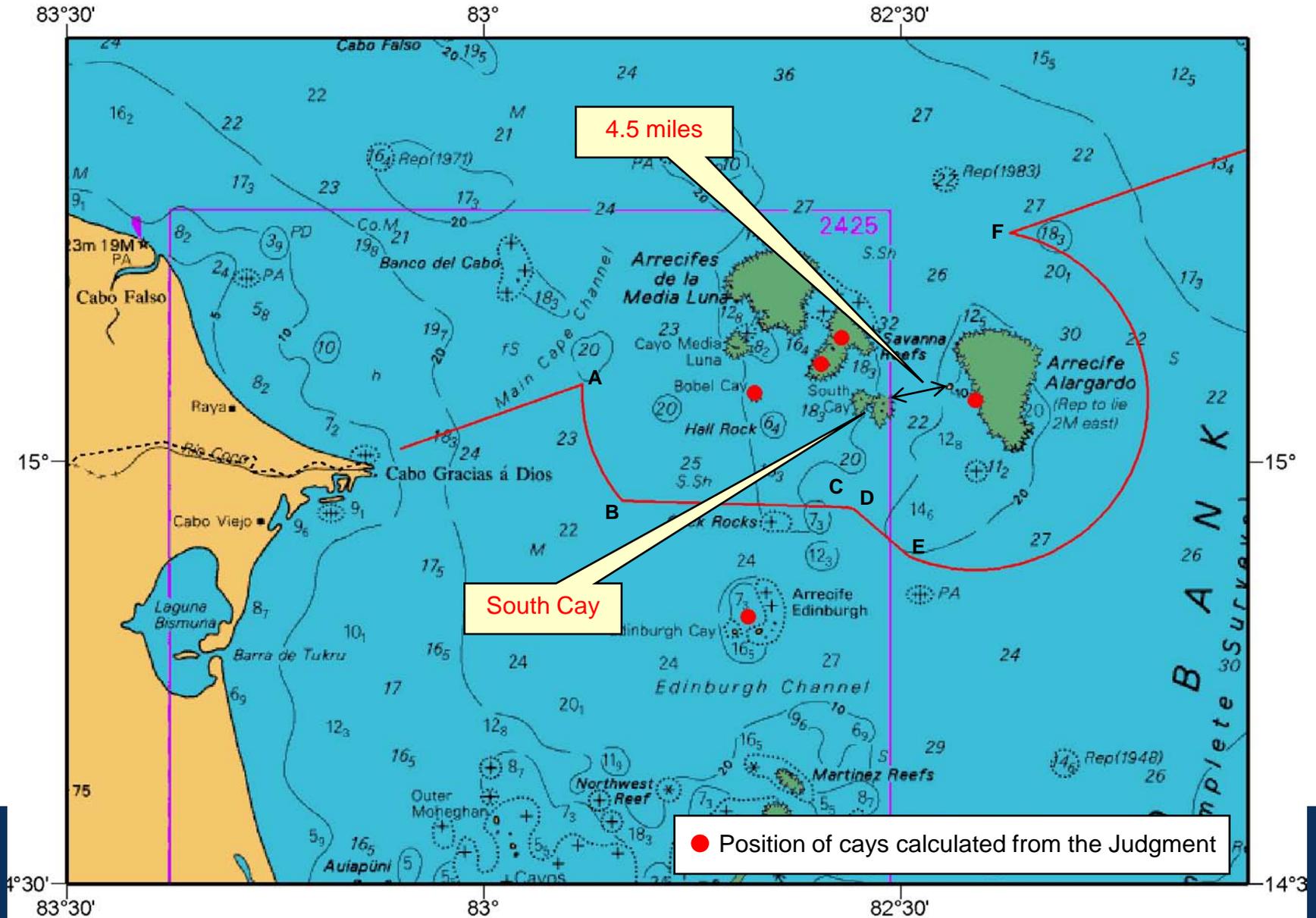
# 12M from reef edge

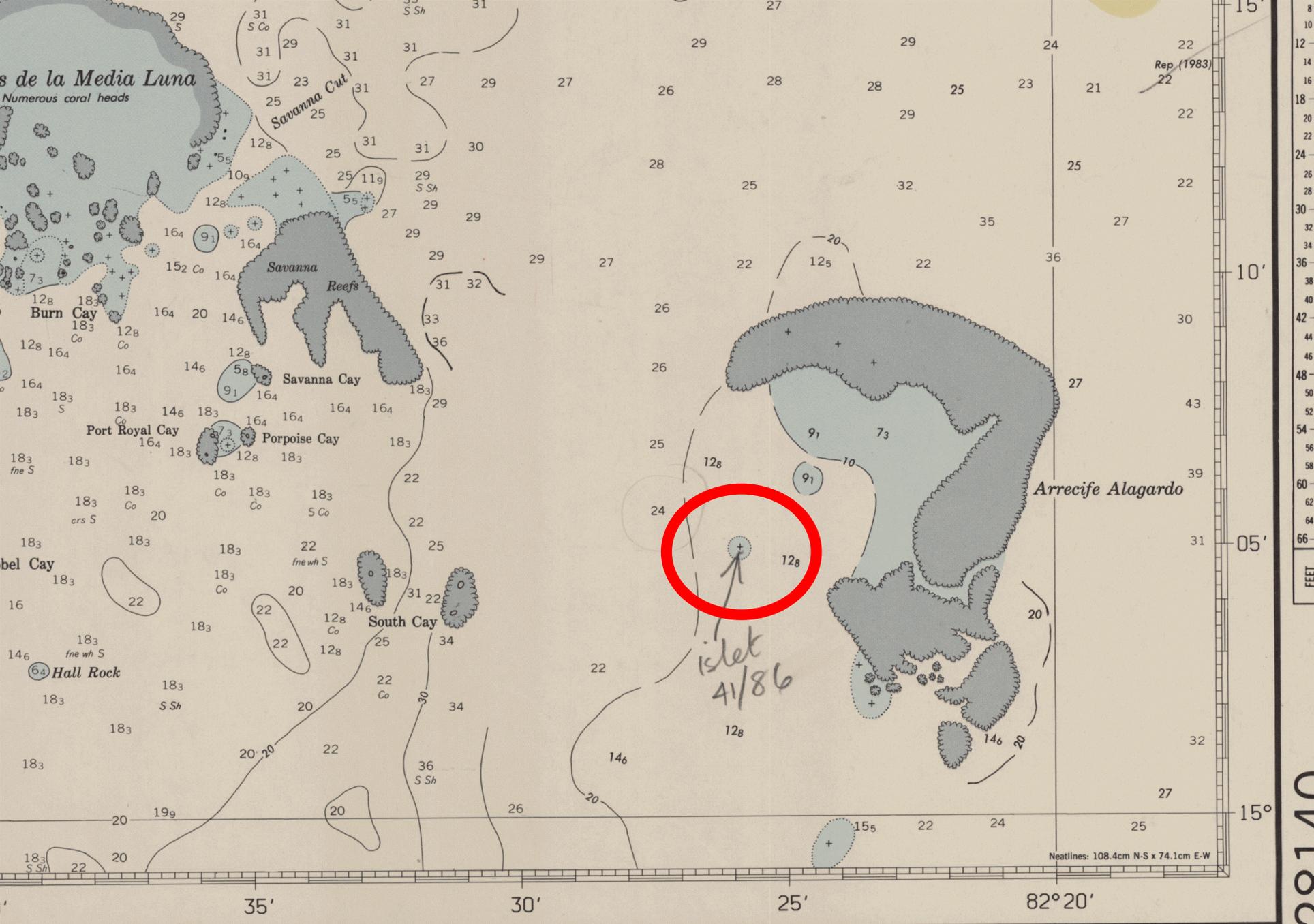


# Cays in relation to reefs



# Cays in relation to reefs



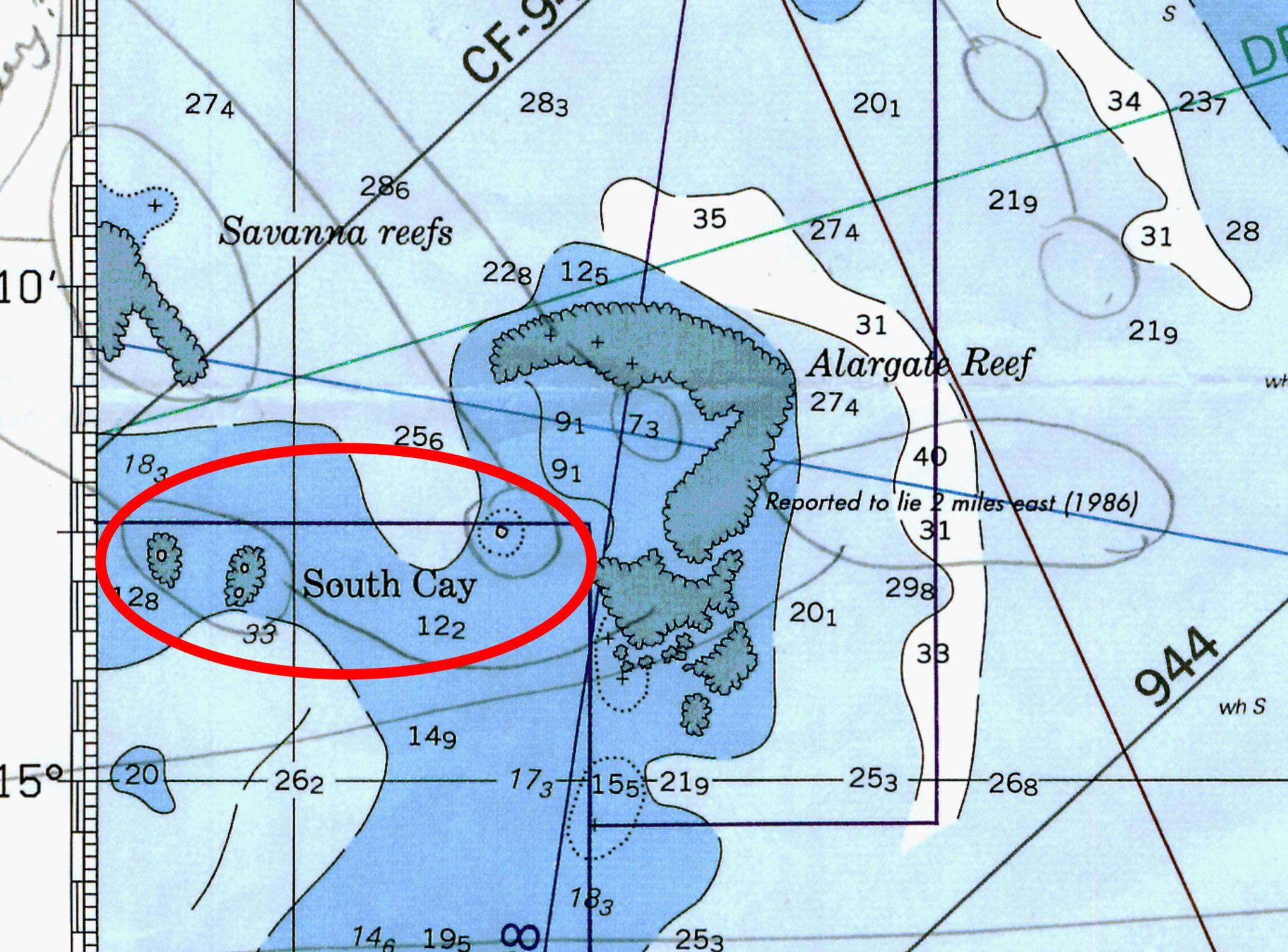


WARNING

Northern Reaches to Cabo Gracias a Dios

SOUNDINGS IN METERS—SCALE 1:175 000

Users should refer corrections, additions, and comments for improving this product to: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY



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