

**Treaty between the United States of America and the Cook Islands on Friendship  
and Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between the United States of America  
and the Cook Islands\***  
**11 June 1980**

The two Governments,  
Desiring to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between their countries and in particular between the peoples of the Cook Islands and American Samoa,  
Noting the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act of 1977 of the Cook Islands,  
Noting the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 of the United States of America,  
Desiring to establish a maritime boundary between the United States of America and the Cook Islands,  
Noting that the United States of America has maintained a claim to sovereignty over the islands of Pukapuka (Danger), Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn,  
Noting further that this claim has not been recognized by the Cook Islands,  
Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

The maritime boundary between the United States of America and the Cook Islands shall be determined by the geodetic lines connecting the following coordinates:

Latitude (South) Longitude (West)

17° 33' 28"	166° 38' 35"
16° 45' 30"	166° 01' 39"
16° 23' 29"	165° 45' 11"
16° 18' 30"	165° 41' 29"
16° 08' 42"	165° 34' 12"
15° 44' 58"	165° 16' 36"
15° 38' 47"	165° 12' 03"
15° 14' 04"	165° 18' 29"
15° 00' 09"	165° 22' 07"
14° 03' 30"	165° 37' 20"
13° 44' 56"	165° 58' 44"
13° 35' 44"	166° 09' 19"
13° 21' 25"	166° 25' 42"
13° 14' 03"	166° 34' 03"
13° 11' 25"	166° 37' 02"
12° 57' 51"	166° 52' 21"
12° 41' 22"	167° 11' 01"
12° 28' 40"	167° 25' 20"
12° 01' 55"	168° 10' 24"
11° 43' 53"	168° 27' 58"
11° 02' 40"	168° 29' 21"
10° 52' 31"	168° 29' 42"

10° 12' 49"	168° 31' 02"
10° 12' 44"	168° 31' 02"
10° 01' 26"	168° 31' 25"

#### Article 2

The geodetic and computational bases used are the World Geodetic System, 1972 (WGS 72) and the following charts and aerial plans:

Rose Island - U.S. Chart NOS 83484, 6th ed.,  
March 26/77, 1:80,000 - local datum;

Manua Islands - U.S. Chart NOS 83484, 6th ed.,  
March 26/77, 1:80,000 - corrected for WGS 72, 1980;

Swains Island - U.S. Chart NOS 83484, 6th ed.,  
March 26/77, 1:40,000 - astro datum 1939;

Palmerston Atoll - Aerial Plan No. 1036/8H  
(N.Z. Lands & Survey), 1:50,400, 1976 - local datum;

Suvarrow (Suvorov) Atoll - Aerial Plan No. 1036/8E  
(N.Z. Lands & Survey), 1:50,400, 1975 - local datum;

Nassau Island - Aerial Plan No. 1036/8B (N.Z. Lands &  
Survey), 1:148,000, 1974 - local datum;

Pukapuka (Danger) Island - Aerial Plan No. 1036/8D  
(N.Z. Lands & Survey), 1:28,800, 1975 - local datum;

Niue - British Admiralty Chart BA 968, 16th ed.,  
March 1979, 1:150,000, corrections to 1979 - local datum;

Fakaofu Atoll - Aerial Plan No. 1036/7C (N.Z. Lands &  
Survey), 1:18,000, 1974 - local datum.

#### Article 3

On the side of the maritime boundary adjacent to the Cook Islands, the United States of America shall not, and on the side of the maritime boundary adjacent to American Samoa the Cook Islands shall not, claim or exercise for any purpose sovereign rights or jurisdiction over the waters or seabed and subsoil.

#### Article 4

The maritime boundary established by this Treaty shall not affect or prejudice in any manner any government's position with respect to the rules of international law concerned with the exercise of jurisdiction over the waters or seabed and subsoil or any other matter relating to the law of the sea.

Article 5

The United States of America recognizes the sovereignty of the Cook Islands over the islands of Penrhyn, Pukapuka (Danger), Manihiki and Rakahanga.

Article 6

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Cook Islands, in the spirit of peace and friendship existing between the two governments and peoples, agree to cooperate with a view to promoting social and economic development in the Cook Islands, and to work toward the advancement of the South Pacific region as a whole. To these ends, they shall promote discussions between their peoples and appropriate government entities, in particular between the peoples of the Cook Islands and American Samoa.

Article 7

This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

DONE in duplicate, in the English and Maori languages, of which English shall be the authentic text, at Rarotonga this eleventh day of June 1980.