China’s Seas: How China Handles Disputes with Its Neighbors

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Seas adjacent to China
Geographical Information

- Coastlines: more than 18,000 kilometers
- Islands: thousands
- Bohai Sea: an area of about 77,000 square kilometres and an average depth of 18m with a maximum depth of 70m
- Yellow Sea: about 380,000 square kilometers, 44m of depth on average with a maximum depth of 140m
- East China Sea: 770,000 square kilometers with an average depth of 370m
- South China Sea: about 3.5 million square kilometers with an average of 1,212m and a maximum depth of 5,559m
Maritime Zones
EEZ of Coastal States
China’s Territorial Sea
East China Sea

- Territorial disputes over islands
- Maritime boundary delimitation
- Oil and gas exploration
- Fishery management
Fishery Management in the East China Sea between China and Japan
Location of China’s Gas Field
Different Claim Lines
Sino-Japan Joint Development Zone
Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands
Location of Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands
South China Sea islands

- Pratas Islands (Dongsha Qundao)
- Paracel Islands (Xisha Qundao)
- Macclesfield Bank (Zhongsha Qundao)
- Spratly Islands (Nansha Qundao)
Map of the South China Sea
Overlapping Claims
China’s Presence in the South China Sea
China’s Presence in the South China Sea
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China’s Presence in the South China Sea
Legal Status of the U-shaped Line
PRC Map
Tripartite Agreement
Sino-Vietnamese Maritime Boundary and Joint Fishery Zone in the Gulf of Tonkin
Third Party Interests