STUDY OF INDONESIA-MALAYSIA MARITIME BOUNDARY DETERMINATION BASED ON UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS 1982)  
(Case Study: Ambalat in The Celebes Sea)

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Abstract

The determination of maritime boundaries is set by International Law, namely The United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea 1982. The Celebes Sea is bordering Indonesia-Malaysia’s waters. Indonesia has land borders with Malaysia on Sebatik Island, and Indonesia-Malaysia’s maritime boundary in the Celebes Sea is closely linked to the status of Sipadan-Ligitan Islands where officially belongs to Malaysia in 2002.

Areas examined in this study range 01° 46' 53" N-04° 10' 10" N and 117° 54' 29" E-119° 02' 26" E is starting Sebatik Island (TD.036) to Sambit Island (TD.040).

Data processing is begins with transforming Geographic Coordinates into Mercator on Marine Chart, British Admiralty Chart, and the coordinates claims of Malaysia Map 1979 by using TransforSoft 1998. Subsequently, digitized on Marine Chart as a basemap of research and attract maritime boundary in accordance with the UNCLOS 1982 article 3, 5, 33, 47, 57, and the Technical Aspects on the Law of the Sea (TALOS). Border demarcation is created by topology and buffering on the Autodesk Map 2004,
territorial sea which is determining of 12 miles from the Indonesia’s archipelagic baselines based on the Government law (PP No.37/2008 and PP No.38/2002), and Malaysia from the normal baseline throughout the islands and reefs. Between Indonesia-Malaysia’s waters, which is less than 24 miles, determined by the same method modified to obtain the distance between the Indonesia-Malaysia with circle points system. Subsequently plotting the coordinates block of the concession in Bukat, Ambalat and East-Ambalat’s block.

From the analysis of the maritime boundary maps is obtained territorial sea and additional zone for Indonesia, while Malaysia territorial sea is determined of the lines with modified method (half effect) to the Sipadan-Ligitan’s island. Based on the results of plotting the coordinates concession, Bukat block including the territorial sea is adding to sovereignty of Indonesia. Ambalat Block including the Additional Zone and East-Ambalat Block including the Exclusive Economic Zone, is adding to the sovereign right of Indonesia. Analysis of maritime delimitation of the study results still need further research.

Keywords : Maritime Boundary, UNCLOS 1982, Equidistance Modification Method, Circle Point System, and Block Ambalat