

*"For the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the Government of Spain - España renuncie a su autoridad y gobierno en la isla de Cuba y se retire de ella."*

# Territorial Ecologies

Reclaiming Estuarine Sovereignties at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba

Country: USA

Institution: Harvard Graduate School of Design

Year: 2018

Course: TERRITORIAL ECOLOGIES

Project Title: "At the Still Point of the Turning World: Reclaiming Estuarine Sovereignties at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba"

Authors: Kai Ng, Anita Cheng, Ann Lynch, Carson Booth, Danica Liongson, Harry Lee, Josh Stevens, Lanie Cohen, Melissa Naranjo, Parawee Wachirabuntoon, Tongtong Zhang, Xiaowei Zhang

Instructors: Pierre Bélanger (Coordinator), Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Danielle Choi, Francesca Benedetto, Rosalea Monacella, Sergio Lopez-Piñeiro







# PERFORMATIVE NATURE

Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial

September 2018 **Barcelona**

SCHOOL PRIZE

X International Landscape Architecture Biennial

Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC

ETSAB- Escola Tècnica Superior

d'Arquitectura de Barcelona

Avenida Diagonal, 649 piso 5

08028 Barcelona-Spain

## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Project: "At the Still Point of the Turning World: *Reclaiming Estuarine Sovereignties at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba*"  
Authors: Kai Ng, Anita Cheng, Ann Lynch, Carson Booth, Danica Liongson, Harry Lee, Josh Stevens, Lanie Cohen, Melissa Naranjo, Parawee Wachirabuntoon, Tongtong Zhang, Xiaowei Zhang  
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Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Danielle Choi, Francesca Benedetto, Rosalea Monacella, Sergio Lopez-Piñeiro  
Program: Landscape Architecture  
Institution: Harvard Graduate School of Design

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

As the oldest extra-territory of the United States, the *Guantánamo Bay Naval Station* (GTMO) illegally occupies the lower embayment and eastern tip of the island of Cuba. Originally named for the Indigenous Taíno toponym "land between the rivers," the deep estuarine waters and shores of Guantánamo Bay were seized by force after the 1898 Spanish-American War cutting off water-based communities from five rivers (Guantánamo, Guaso, Secco, Tao, Hondo) and access to the Caribbean Sea. Since the Cuban-American Treaty of 1903, the U.S. has forcefully re-engineered the bay as a base for a range of colonial operations, including the notorious Camp X-Ray since the 2001 Global War on Terror.

Imagining a demilitarized future, this territorial design project re-imagines the decolonization of these waters through the reclamation of Guantánamo's estuary as catalyst for territorial sovereignty, emancipation, and rejuvenation. Through a sequence of retroactive ecological strategies—*both upstream and downstream*, a formerly fractured Guantánamo Bay is reunified through a built-up reef system bringing together displaced peoples, environments, and economies together with the withdrawal of U.S. presence and dismantling of American structures.

Named after local fisherman Rodolfo Rossell Salas killed by the U.S. Navy in 1962, the constructed system of protective reefs and fish farms power the growth of emergent and wet market economies. By rebuilding ocean access, the pelagic body politic of the newly formed Caimanera Fishers' Cooperative not only regenerates once and future fish communities but brings ashore territorial justices and territorial freedoms grounded in the reclaimed waters of la *Bahía de Guantánamo*.

For further information

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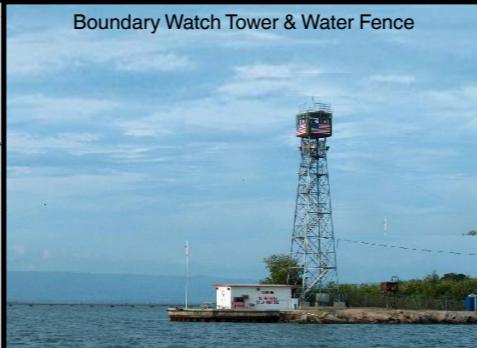
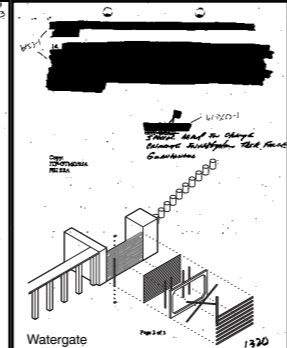
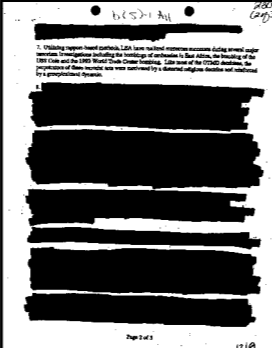
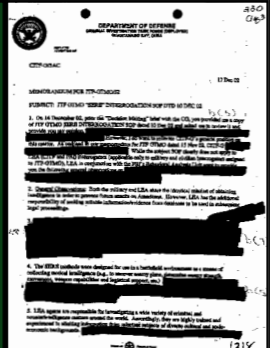
Consult the web page <http://landscape.coac.net/>



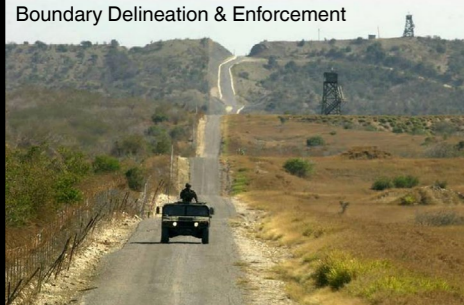
# U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay

The Treaty of 1934, reaffirmed in 1963, provides that only US abandonment of area or mutual agreement can terminate the lease.

Scale 1:165,000



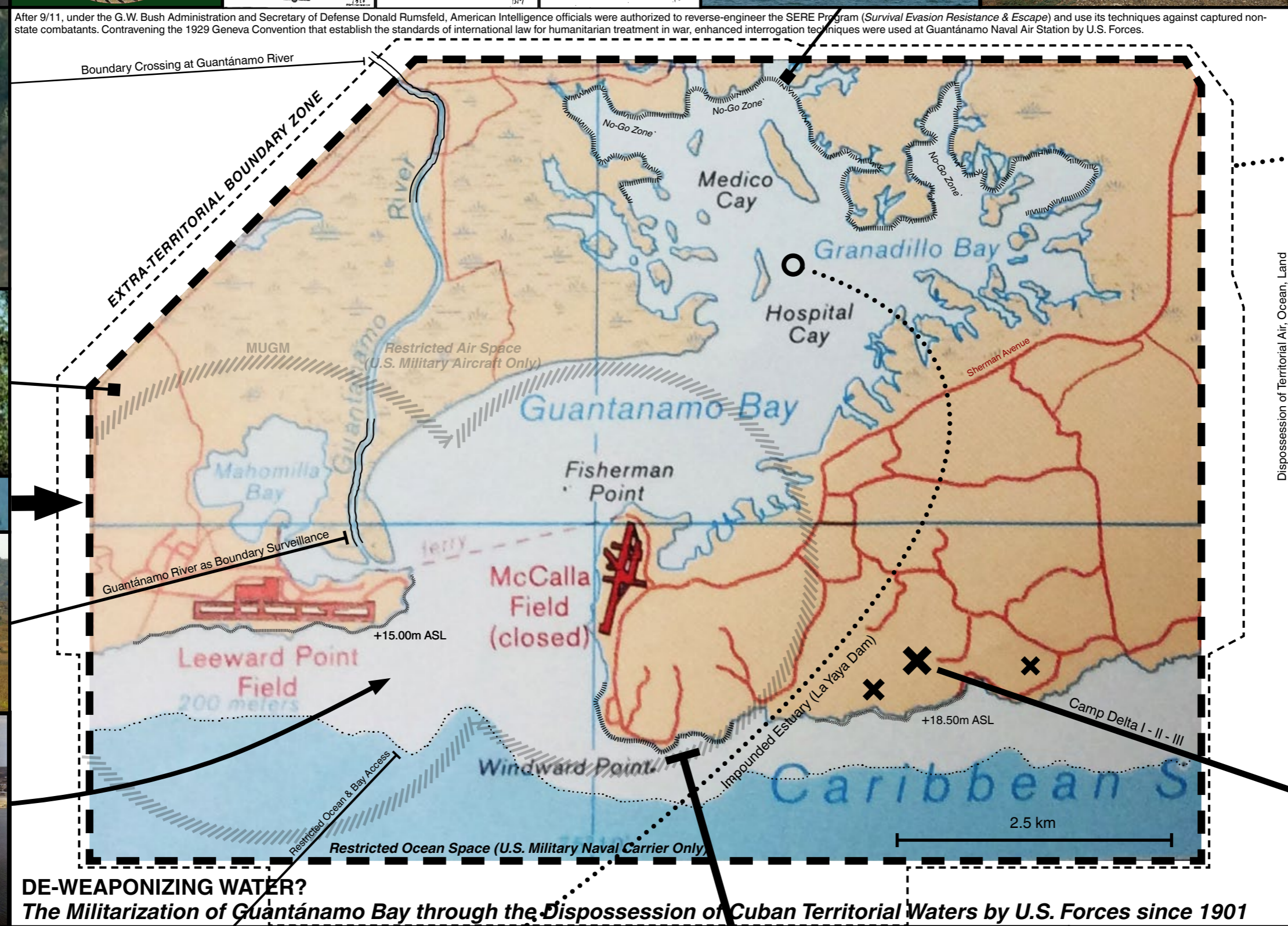
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative



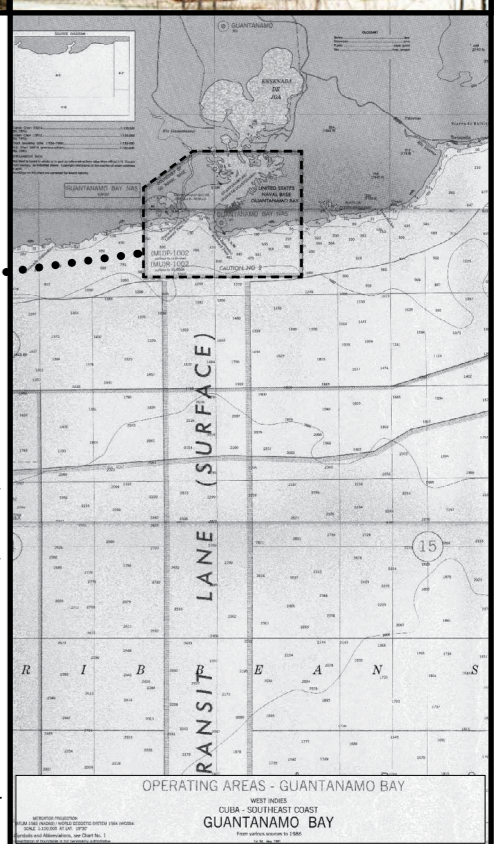
Boundary Delineation & Enforcement



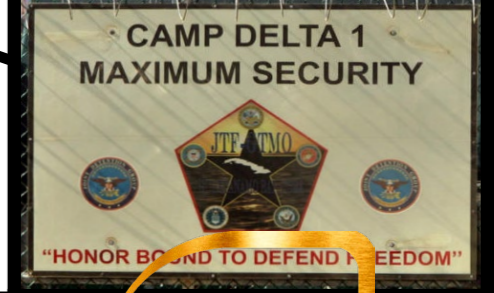
Deep Harbour as Naval Settlement Space



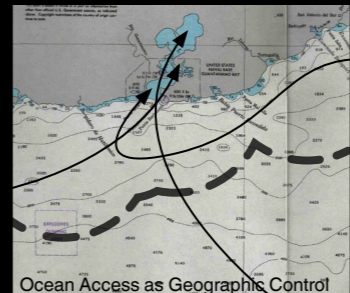
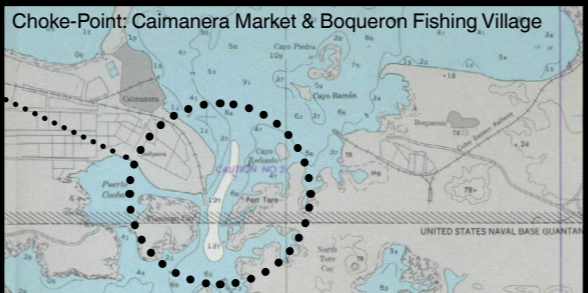
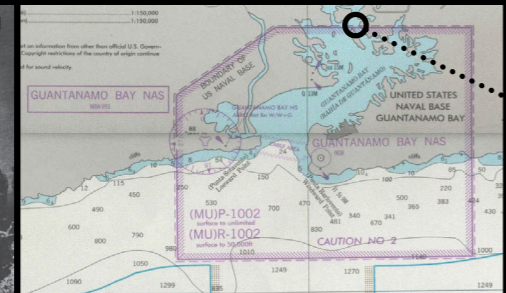
**DE-WEAPONIZING WATER?**  
**The Militarization of Guantánamo Bay through the Dispossession of Cuban Territorial Waters by U.S. Forces since 1901**



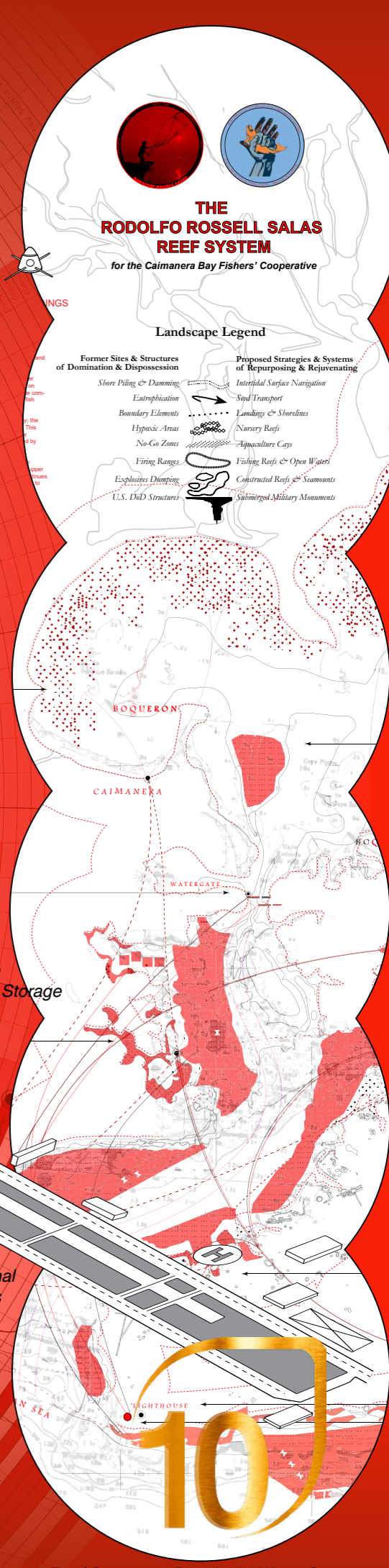
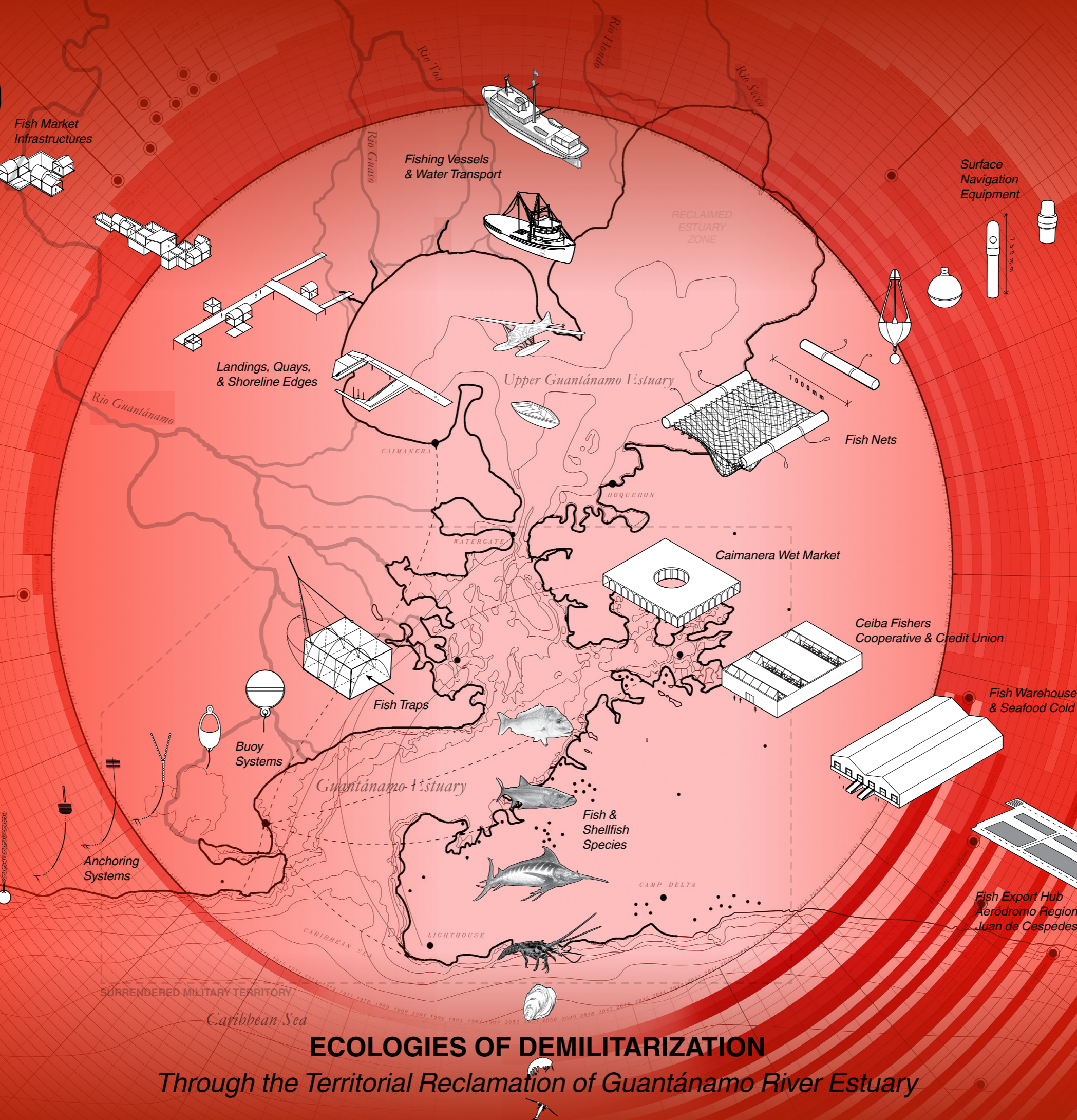
Dispossession of Territorial Air, Ocean, Land



1898 Territorial Dispossession & U.S. Flag Raising

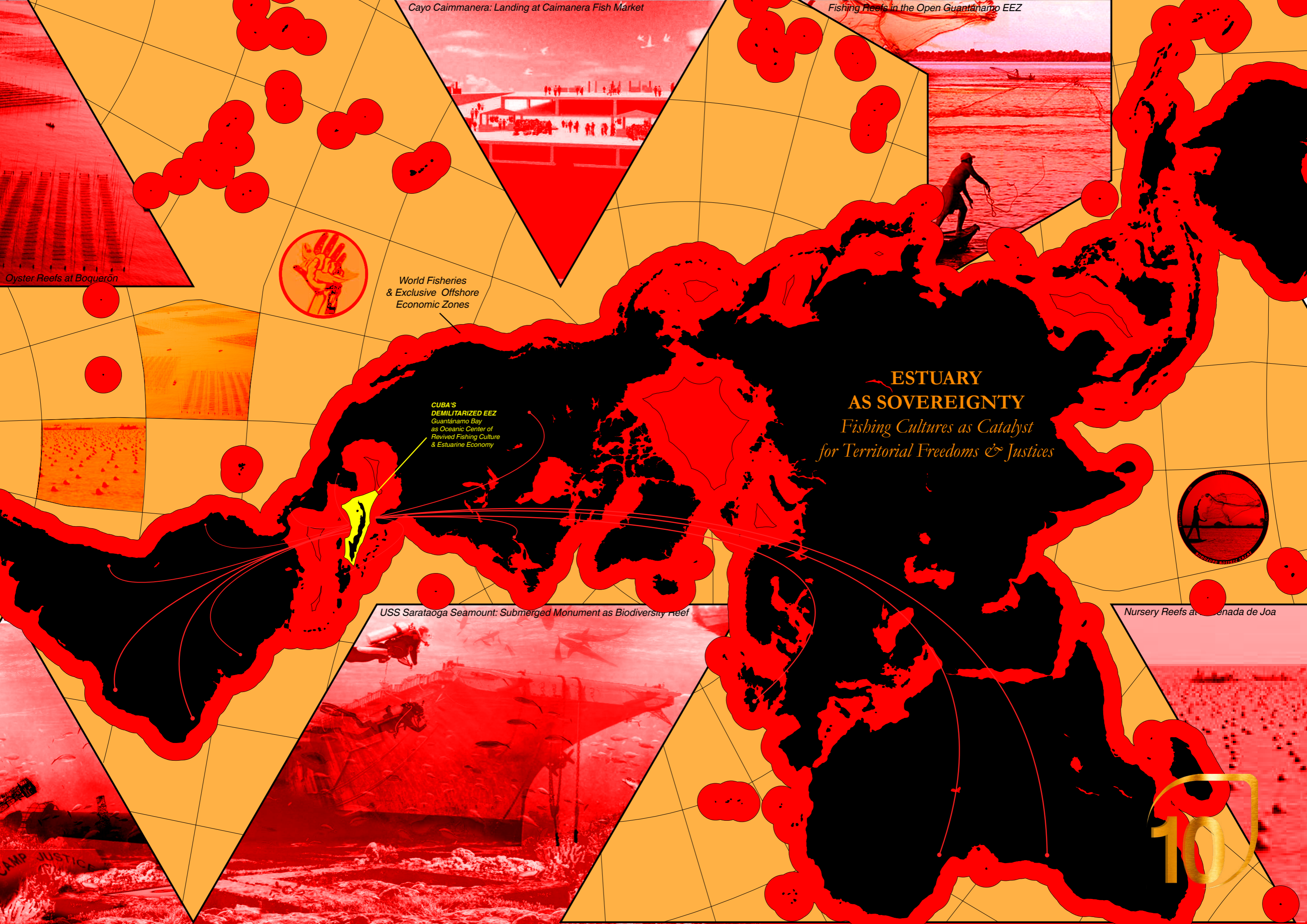






**ECOLOGIES OF DEMILITARIZATION**  
Through the Territorial Reclamation of Guantánamo River Estuary





Cayo Caimanera: Landing at Caimanera Fish Market

Fishing Reefs in the Open Guantánamo EEZ

Oyster Reefs at Boquerón

World Fisheries & Exclusive Offshore Economic Zones

CUBA'S DEMILITARIZED EEZ  
Guantánamo Bay  
as Oceanic Center of  
Revived Fishing Culture  
& Estuarine Economy

# ESTUARY AS SOVEREIGNTY

*Fishing Cultures as Catalyst  
for Territorial Freedoms & Justices*

USS Saratoga Seamount: Submerged Monument as Biodiversity Reef

Nursery Reefs at Ciénaga de Joa

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