

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES  
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**GUIDANCE ON THE DEPICTION OF THE  
MACAU SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**

**Background:** Pursuant to the Sino-Portuguese Agreement of April 13, 1987, Macau became the second Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China after Hong Kong on December 20, 1999. Unlike the Hong Kong SAR, which has clearly defined land and maritime limits shown clearly on Chinese maps, Macau’s water and land ties to the mainland are not depicted with clearly-defined boundaries on Chinese cartographic products (see Figure 1 on page 2).

**Boundary Symbol:** When both entities were colonial dependencies, an international boundary symbol was used to separate them from China on U.S. Government maps. Shortly after Hong Kong became a Special Administrative region, its maritime borders with China were realigned. At that time, the U.S. Department of State issued guidance (Guidance Bulletin No. 19, August 7, 1997) authorizing use of an “other line of separation” rather than a standard administrative boundary around Hong Kong in order to reflect its special semi-autonomous status in both the land and water.

This guidance confirms that an “other line of separation” symbol, which is neither an international nor a standard first-order administrative boundary, should also be drawn across the narrow neck of land in the northern tip of the Macau peninsula as shown here in Figure 2.



Figure 2: land crossing in north Macau showing placement of other line of separation

Because no cartographic or other evidence reflects a depiction of limits within any of the waters surrounding Macau, the “other line of separation” shall not be shown around any other part of the SAR.

**Label:** The entity should be labeled “Macau Special Administrative Region,” “Macau S.A.R.” or “Macau” depending upon map scale in a typeface other than that used for independent states or internal administrative divisions.

**Notes and Disclaimers:** None are required except the standard disclaimer: “Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.”

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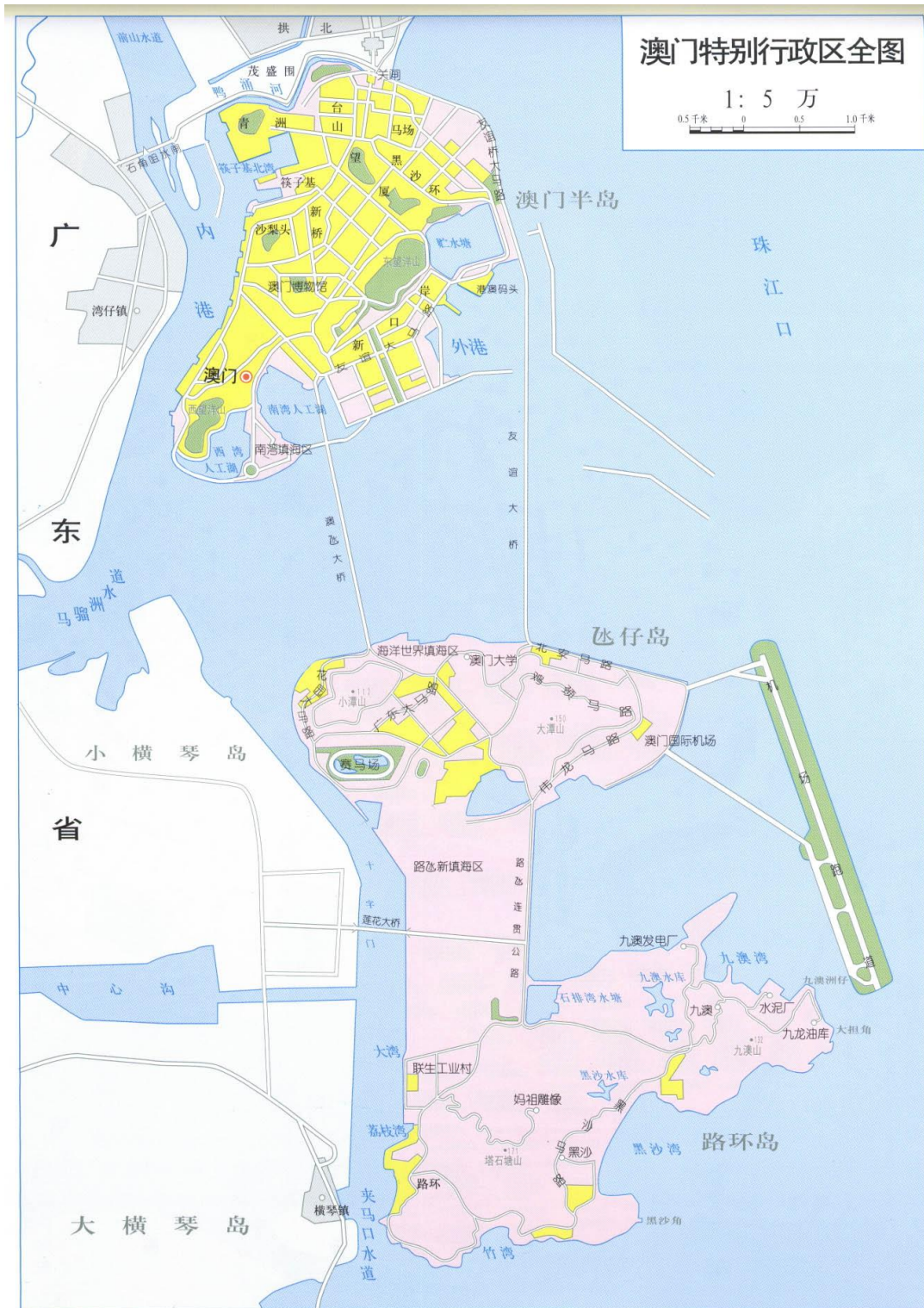


Figure 1. Chinese map depicting Macau SAR (2005)