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Subject: map\_continents and /fill... revisited

Posted by [Brian McNoldy](#) on Thu, 30 Jun 2011 19:29:47 GMT

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I realize this has been tossed around in this forum for at least 15 years, but I'm curious if there has been any progress made or if anyone has a work-around. The hires maps that ship with IDL are inadequate, which is especially noticeable when you try to fill the continents. Fairly large islands are ignored (Long Island, Kyushu, Trinidad, Bahamas, etc), which a) looks bad in plots and b) makes it impossible to create an accurate land/sea mask from the maps.

In addition to these large islands that don't count as land, other suggestions I'd make on this topic are: 1) introducing something "map\_continents,/ocean,/fill,color=0", 2) including state maps for at least Canada and Mexico so something like "map\_continents,/usa,/mexico,/canada..." would draw all state boundaries in North America, and 3) updating political boundaries which in certain parts of the world have changed quite a bit over the past 20 years.

Cheers,  
Brian

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