



Introduction

Seasteading means the creation and growth of permanent, autonomous ocean communities, or “seasteads,” to promote greater competition and innovation in political and social systems. Seasteads will give people the opportunity to peacefully test new ideas about how to live together. The most successful will become thriving floating cities—inspiring change around the world. Since the founding of the Seasteading Institute in 2008 by the partnership of Patri Friedman, grandson of renowned economist Milton Friedman, and Silicon Valley investor and philanthropist Peter Thiel, the seasteading movement has been getting more and more attention and recognition both within the US and across the world. Therefore, it is natural for seasteaders to look around the entire oceans of the world and study the most promising locations for seasteading communities.

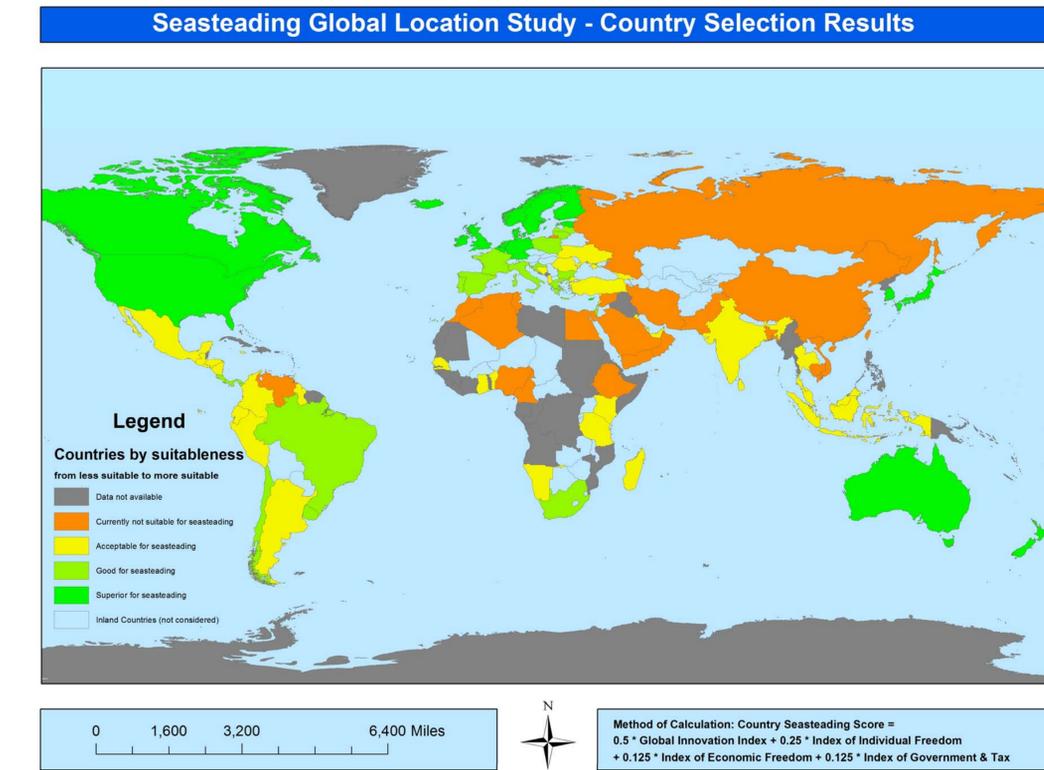


The Seasteading Global Location Study seeks to utilize a GIS approach to research possible locations among global coastal cities for seasteading development based on a series of socioeconomic factors. By employing GIS as a tool of analysis, these socioeconomic factors could be laid out spatially and therefore provide unique indications that conventional studies in social sciences would not normally lead to.

Objectives and Methodology

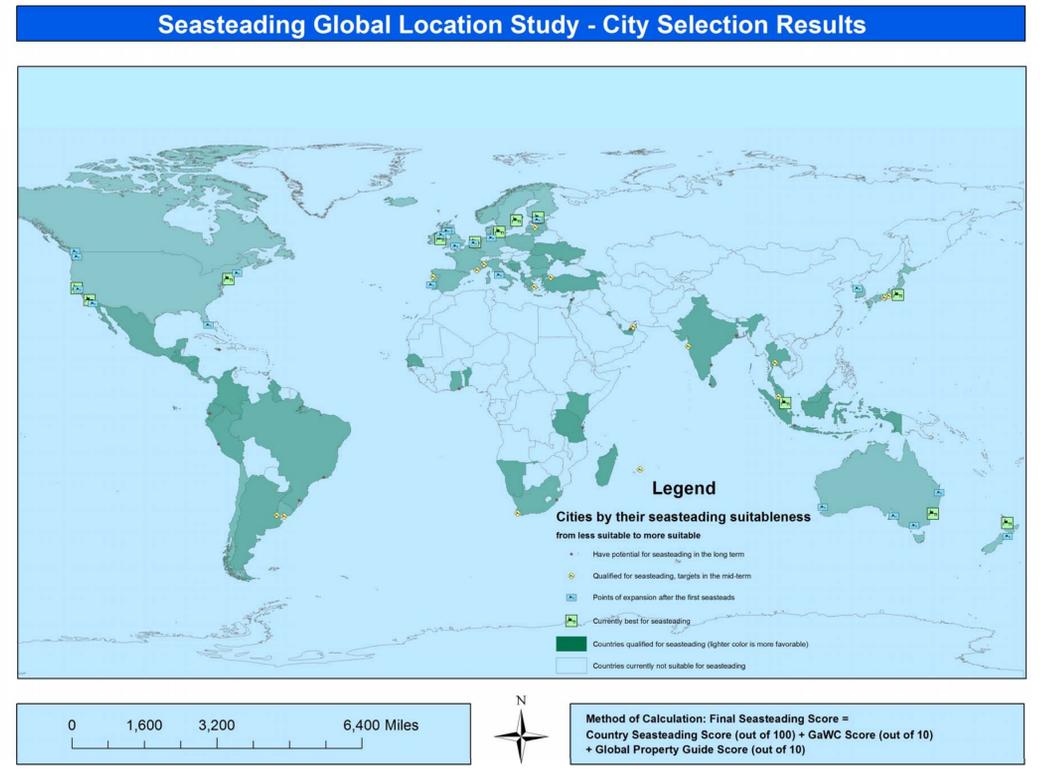
This study will focus on global coastal cities as a potential frontier for the construction of the first generation of seasteads. In order to filter out the candidate pool, this study goes through two stages: country selection and city selection.

Phase 1 Country selection: in this study, a country must satisfy three standards to be suitable for seasteading:



- **The country is politically and economically liberal.** The first spots for seasteading need to be more politically liberal, otherwise the seastead faces the danger of its estate being expropriated by the government. For a seastead to be autonomous and functioning, it also requires that the countries where the seasteads are located at to have relatively less economic regulation and less government and tax burdens.
- **The economy of the country is competitive at building innovative products and services.** In a business sense, a seastead is not just a piece of land, a ship or an artificial island. Located in the world oceans, seasteads could become platforms for innovations that explore largely unexploited ocean resources and energy to unfold. The legal uniqueness of seasteads also makes them ideal for innovative industries such as medical tourism and offshore manufacturing to grow.

While we are trying to transfer the social indexes acquired from various sources into the suitability for seasteading, as innovation capabilities of seasteading locations are as important as the level of political and economic liberty, the Innovation Score will count for 50% of the “Country Seasteading Score”. The other 50% is determined by the liberty index. The measurement of liberty index is then divided into social liberty and business liberty. Business liberty is again broken into the equal contributions from two indexes: government & taxes and economic freedom. Finally, the “Country Seasteading Score” is calculated and spatially displayed via GIS lenses. All countries, in terms of their Country Seasteading Score, could be divided into five groups: Superior for seasteading (green), good for seasteading (light green), acceptable for seasteading (yellow), not suitable for seasteading (orange) and finally, the countries with no data (grey).



Phase 2 City selection - A city needs to satisfy two standards for it to be suitable for seasteading:

- **The city is considered to be an important node in the global economic system.** It is a crucial strategy to build a seastead as a site of attraction and a showcase for new ideas and maximize its exposure to the media and the public. Ideally, a location that fulfills the above requirements should be in an area that has regional and international influence.
- **The city also has a relatively high price of real estate.** The feasibility of seasteading in a city where land is highly valuable would be also higher. This study will thus study the potential value of the seastead as a piece of real estate.



City	Country	Seasteading Score
New York	United States	91.41
Stockholm	Sweden	86.12
Dublin	Ireland	85.79
Amsterdam	Netherlands	85.42
Sydney	Australia	85.15
Helsinki	Finland	83.86
Copenhagen	Denmark	83.65
Tokyo	Japan	81.84
Auckland	New Zealand	81.84
Singapore	Singapore	79.95
San Francisco	United States	79.41
Los Angeles	United States	79.41

Selected Seasteading Candidate Cities and their seasteading scores

Conclusion

This study shows how socioeconomic factors can be highly spatially relevant and incorporating them using a GIS method will bring in unique perspectives to social science researches. Furthermore, the Seasteading Global Location Study, being an introductory topic in seasteading research, shows that GIS will become an increasingly important tool in the course of development of the seasteading movement. It is expected that the establishment of actual seasteading businesses and industries will open up a whole new realm and create a new platform for GIS applications to unfold.

