U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE • BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH • ISSUED BY THE GEOGRAPHER

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 74

MARITIME BOUNDARY:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY - GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the continental shelf of maritime nations.

Intended for background use only, this research document does not represent an official acceptance of the United States Government of the line or lines represented on the charts or, necessarily, of the specific principles involved, if any, in the original drafting of the lines. Additional copies may be requested by mail from The Geographer, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520, or by telephone (Area Code 202, 632-2022).

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 74

MARITIME BOUNDARY:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY-

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

October 5, 1976

Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) signed an agreement on June 29, 1974, establishing a maritime boundary in Lubeck Bay. The agreement entered into force on October 1, 1974. The 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone has been signed by the GDR, with a reservation and declaration, but not by the FRG.

The two states agreed on the following Protocol Note:

1. The boundary between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic begins at the end of the landward boundary between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic with the coordinates 53°57'30"N, 10°54'18"E and continues from there through the points determined by coordinates.

A 53°57'55"N, 10°54'18"E
B 53°59'38"N, 10°56'50"E
C 54°02'36"N, 11°00'36"E
to the point with the coordinates
D 54°03'32"N, 11°02'45"E

2. Both sides, from October 1, 1974 on will in their practical measures start at the boundary course described in item 1.

3. The boundary course between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, as described in item 1, will, pursuant to Article 12, par. 2 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, of April 29, 1958, be marked at once on large-scale charts officially recognized.

4. This protocol note will become part of the documents concluding the work of the Boundary Commission.

Berlin, June 29, 1974

For the Government of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Dr. Pagel

For the Government of the
German Democratic Republic
Kormes

ANALYSIS

The FRG-GDR maritime boundary is plotted on the attached DMA/HC chart 44069.

The boundary extends 7.99 nautical miles and has five turning or terminal points. The distance between points ranges from 0.42 to 3.71 nautical miles. Most of the boundary (A-B-C-D) coincides with the southeast edge of shipping route 3 (turning points A-B-C-D are demarcated by light buoys). From point A the boundary runs due south to the FRG-GDR land boundary terminus.

Shipping route 3 was ordered by British occupation authorities after 1945 and subsequently was incorporated in FRG national law. Since it lies partially in high seas and partially in FRG territorial seas, shipping access for the FRG to the ports of Lubeck and Travemunde has not been ensured by agreement with the GDR.

The attached table shows that the boundary is not equidistant from each coast. Seaward of turning point A, the boundary is closer to the GDR coast. Each state claims a 3-nautical-mile territorial sea. The entire boundary borders the GDR territorial sea while on the FRG side over half of the boundary length lies outside its territorial sea limits.

FRG-GDR MARITIME BOUNDARY

Turning or Terminal Point	Distance Between Points (N.M.)	Distance, Land To Boundary Point (N.M.)	
		FRG	GDR
Land Boundary Terminus			
	0.42		
A		0.42	0.40
	2.28		
B		2.30	0.98
	3.71		
C		5.16	2.41
	1.58		
D		5.53	2.88

Maritime Boundary:
Federal Republic of Germany–German Democratic Republic

GLOSSARY

Bach	stream
Binnen	inner
Bodden	bay
Bucht	gulf
Flak	shoal, bank
Grossen	large, big
Grund (Gd)	ground
Holme (HI)	islet
Kleinen	small
Odde	point, head
Ort	point
Rev	reef
Riff	reef, sandbank
See	sea, lake
Steinen (St)	stones
Strom	river, stream

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

A. 53°57′55″N, 10°54′18″E
B. 53°59′38″N, 10°56′50″E
C. 54°02′36″N, 11°00′36″E
D. 54°03′32″N, 11°02′45″E

53°57′30″N, 10°54′18″E

FED. REP. OF GERMANY
GERMAN DEM. REP.

PROHIBITED AREA

FOUL ANCHORAGE

ANCH PROHIB

FOUL AMMUNITIONS

VAR 2°15′W (1975)
ANNUAL CHANGE 2′E

See Plan

From NO. 44069, 6th Edition, June 14, 1975
Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State.

570531 8-76