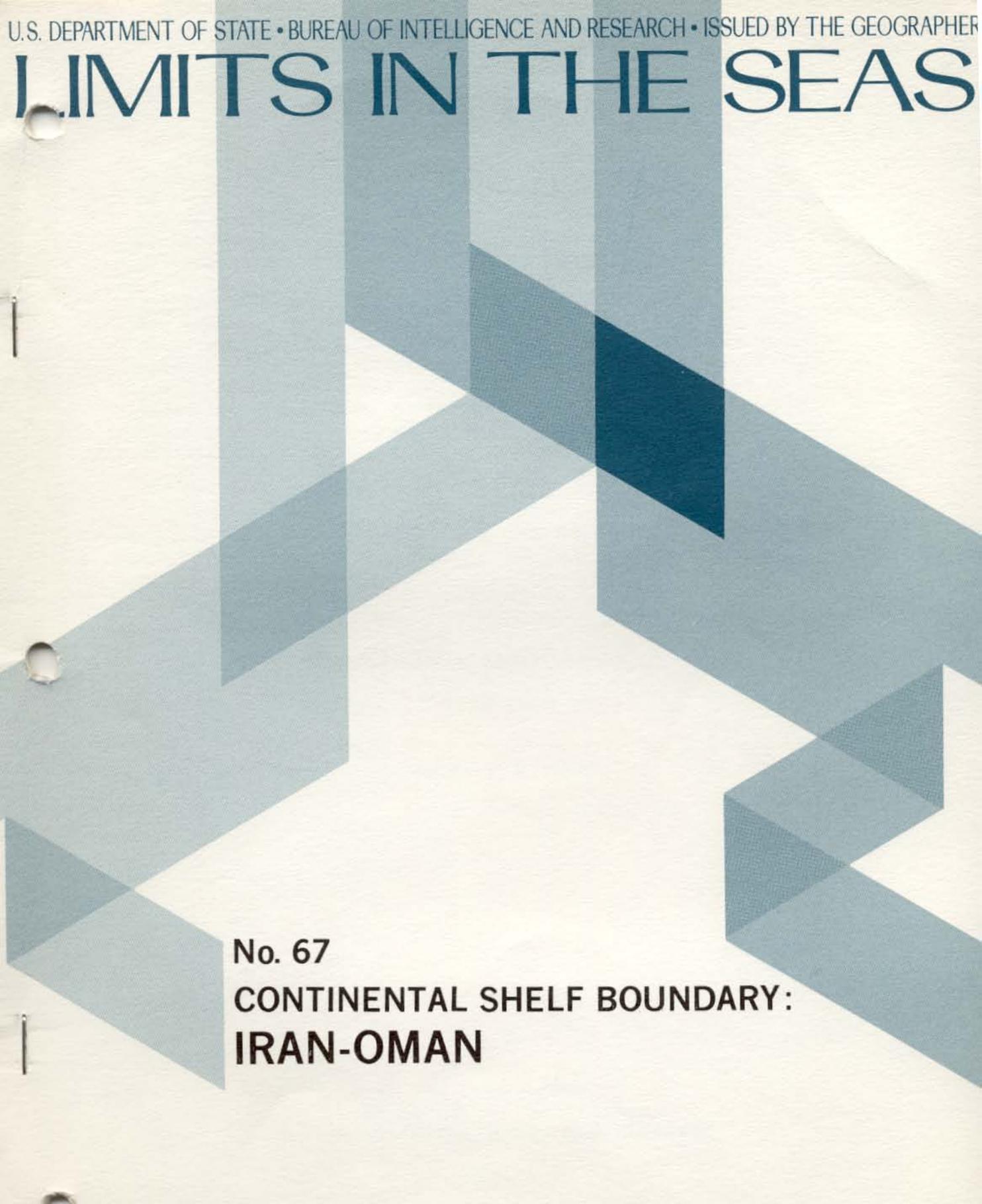


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LIMITS IN THE SEAS



No. 67

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:
IRAN-OMAN

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.

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January 1, 1976

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Imperial Government of Iran and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman signed an agreement on July 25, 1974, regarding the delimitation of their continental shelf boundary. The agreement was ratified by both States and the instruments of ratification were exchanged at Muscat on May 28, 1975. Neither government is a party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf.

The Agreement Concerning Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Between Iran and Oman states that:

The Imperial Government of Iran and The Government of the Sultanate of Oman desirous of establishing in a just, equitable and precise manner the boundary line between the respective areas of the continental shelf over which they have sovereign rights in accordance with international law, and after having exchanged credentials, found in good and due form,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The line dividing the continental shelf lying between the territory of Iran on the one side and the territory of Oman on the other side shall consist of geodetic lines between the following points in the sequence hereinafter set out: -

Point (1) is the most western point which is the intersection of the geodetic line drawn between point (0) having the coordinates of 55°42'15"E 26°14'45"N and point (2) having the coordinates of 55°47'45"E 26°16'35"N with the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Ras Al Khaimal.

		<u>Lat. N.</u>	<u>Long. E.</u>
Point	(2)	55 47 45	26 16 35
Point	(3)	55 52 15	26 18 50
Point	(4)	56 06 45	26 28 40
Point	(5)	56 08 35	26 31 05
Point	(6)	56 10 25	26 32 50
Point	(7)	56 14 30	26 35 25
Point	(8)	56 16 30	26 35 35
Point	(9)	56 19 40	26 37 00
Point	(10)	56 33 00	26 37 00 W. Intersect of Larac 12m.
Point	(11)	56 41 00	26 42 15 E. Intersect of Larac 12m.
Point	(11)	56 41 00	26 44 15
Point	(12)	56 44 00	26 41 35
Point	(13)	56 45 15	26 39 40
Point	(14)	56 47 45	26 35 15
Point	(15)	56 47 30	26 25 15

Point	(16)	56 48 05	26 22 00
Point	(17)	56 47 50	26 16 30
Point	(18)	56 48 00	26 11 35
Point	(19)	56 50 15	26 03 05
Point	(20)	56 49 50	25 58 05
Point	(21)	56 51 30	25 45 20

Point (22) is the most southern point located at the intersection of the geodetic demarcation line drawn from point (21) (specified above) at an azimuth angle of 190° 00 00' and of the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Sharjah.

Article 2

If any single geological petroleum structure or petroleum field, or any single geological structure or field of any other mineral extends across the boundary line set out in Article 1 of this Agreement and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of that boundary line could be exploited wholly or in part by directional drilling from the other side of the boundary line then:

(a) No well shall be drilled on either side of the boundary line as set out in Article 1 so that any producing section thereof is less than 125 meters from the said boundary line except by mutual agreement between the two contracting Parties.

(b) If the circumstances considered in this Article shall arise both Parties hereto shall use their best endeavours to reach agreement as to the manner in which the operations on both sides of the boundary line could be co-ordinated or unitized.

Article 3

The Boundary line referred to in Article 1 herein has been illustrated on the British Admiralty Chart No. 2888, 1962 edition with small corrections through 1974, and with the ellipsoid used in said chart, which is annexed to this Agreement.

The said Chart has been made in duplicate and signed by the representatives of both Parties each of whom has retained one copy thereof.

Article 4

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the status of the superjacent waters or airspace above any part of the Continental shelf.

Article 5

(a) This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Muscat.

(b) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

In witness thereof the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Tehran the 25th day of July 1974 corresponding to the 3rd day of Mordad 1853 corresponding to the 5th day of Rajah 1394 in Persian, Arabic, and English languages, all texts being equally authoritative.

For the Imperial Government of Iran

For the Government of the Sultanate of Oman

ANALYSIS

The delimitation of the continental shelf boundary between Iran and Oman is plotted on the attached U.S. Naval Oceanographic Chart 62390.

The boundary extends for a distance of 124.85 nautical miles and has 22 terminal or turning points. The distance between points ranges from 1.80 nautical miles (between points 7 and 8) to 16.30 nautical miles (between points 3 and 4). The shelf boundary extends from the eastern section of the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz to the Gulf of Oman. The water depth in this region is approximately 35-55 fathoms.

The two terminal points have not been precisely delimited. Point 1 of the boundary line is described in the treaty as being:

"the most western point which is the intersection of the geodetic line drawn between point (0) having the coordinates of 55°42'15"E, 26°14'45"N and point (2) having the coordinates of 55°47'45"E, 26°16'35"N with the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Ras Al Khaimah."

When the Oman-Ras Al Khaimah lateral offshore boundary is agreed upon, point (0) probably will be west of the Iran-Oman shelf boundary.

The other terminal point (point 22) is described in the treaty as being:

"on an azimuth of 190° from point 21 to the intersection of the Oman-Sharjah lateral offshore boundary."

It should be noted that the Oman-Sharjah lateral offshore boundary has not been defined.

The section of the shelf boundary between points 9 and 10 coincides with the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea arcs measured from Larak Island.

The treaty specified that the boundary had been delimited on British Admiralty Chart No. 2888. The distances between the boundary turning points and the nearest territories shown on the following table were calculated using this British Chart. Taking into consideration possible error in establishing the land coordinates, it can be assumed that turning points 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 are equidistant from one point on each coast. The other turning points are clearly closer to one of the states with point 21 being 4.40 nautical miles closer to Oman than to Iran territory. For a boundary to be a true equidistant line every point along the entire line must be equidistant from two points (one point on each coast) while the turning points must be equidistant from three points (two points on one coast and one point on the other coast).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IRAN-OMAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Turning or Terminal Points	Distance Between Points (n.m.)	Closest Iran Territory	Distance, Land to Boundary Point (n.m.)		Closest Oman Territory
1.	<i>Indefinite: Intersection of the line connecting points 0 and 2 with the Oman – Ras Al Khaimah lateral offshore boundary.</i>				
2.		Hengam	20.35	20.21	Mainland
	4.62				
3.		Hengam	17.78	17.86	Mainland
	16.30				
4.		Hengam	14.42	14.43	Ghanam
	2.92				
5.		Hengam	14.56	14.38	Ghanam
	2.40				
6.		Mainland	14.51	14.33	Ghanam
	4.48				
7.		Mainland near Suza	14.31	14.11	Perforated Rock
	1.80				
8.		Larak	13.72	13.40	Perforated Rock
	3.17				
9.		Larak	11.94	11.89	Great Quoin
	15.36				
10.		Larak	11.97	11.98	Great Quoin
	7.44				
11.		Larak	16.60	16.50	Gap Island
	3.78				
12.		Low Tide Elevation	16.29	15.94	Gap Island
	2.22				
13.		Low Tide Elevation near Kuhestak	16.02	15.44	Gap Island
	4.94				
14.		Mainland	15.22	15.20	Gap Island
	9.97				
15.		Low Tide Elevation	13.84	13.86	Musandam

Turning or Terminal Points	Distance Between Points (n.m.)	Closest Iran Territory	Distance, Land to Boundary Point (n.m.)		Closest Oman Territory
16.	3.28	Low Tide Elevation	13.88	13.97	Musandam
17.	5.49	Low Tide Elevation	15.08	14.75	Fayyarin
18.	4.90	Low Tide Elevation	16.70	13.92	Fayyarin
19.	8.71	Mainland	19.03	21.73	Fayyarin
20.	5.00	Mainland	20.28	23.80	Lima Island
21.	12.80	Mainland	24.03	19.63	Lima Island
22.	<i>Indefinite: On an azimuth of 190° from point 21 to the intersection of the Oman – Sharjah lateral offshore boundary.</i>				



ASIA
PERSIAN GULF
EASTERN PART

From surveys by the USS TANNER between 1960 and 1961 and British charts to 1968 with additions and corrections to 1975

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
(Under Eleven in Fathoms and Feet)
reduced to the approximate level of Indian Spring Low Water
HEIGHTS IN METERS ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
Value of heights in feet shown thus: (451 ft)

For Symbols and Abbreviations, see Chart No. 1

MERCATOR PROJECTION
SCALE 1:350,000 AT LAT. 26°

Names and boundaries are not necessarily authoritative

GLOSSARY

- Bandar anchorage, bay, harbor
- Dawlat bay
- Chub-bat hill(s), mountain
- Jazirah, Jazirah island, islet
- Khalij gulf, bay
- Khawr bay, inlet
- Kuh hill, mountain(s), peak, range
- Ras cape, point
- Rid stream
- Sar cape

CONVERSION TABLE
FATHOMS AND FEET
TO METERS

FATHOMS	0	1	2	3	4	5
METERS	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5
FEET	1	6	11	16	21	26
	30	36	41	47	52	58
	63	69	75	81	87	93
	100	107	114	121	128	136
	143	150	157	164	171	178
	195	203	211	219	227	235
	258	267	276	284	293	302
	344	354	364	374	384	394
	451	462	473	484	495	506
	609	621	633	645	657	669
	827	840	853	866	879	892
	1115	1130	1145	1160	1175	1190
	1545	1562	1579	1596	1613	1630
	2018	2037	2056	2075	2094	2113
	2529	2550	2571	2592	2613	2634
	3080	3103	3126	3149	3172	3195
	3777	3802	3827	3852	3877	3902
	4413	4440	4467	4494	4521	4548
	5099	5128	5157	5186	5215	5244
	5875	5906	5937	5968	5999	6030
	6753	6786	6819	6852	6885	6918
	7693	7728	7763	7798	7833	7868
	8695	8732	8769	8806	8843	8880
	9750	9789	9828	9867	9906	9945
	10869	10910	10951	10992	11033	11074
	12053	12106	12159	12212	12265	12318
	13303	13368	13433	13498	13563	13628
	14629	14706	14783	14860	14937	15014
	16323	16412	16501	16590	16679	16768
	18097	18198	18299	18400	18501	18602
	19953	20066	20179	20292	20405	20518
	22059	22184	22309	22434	22559	22684
	24331	24468	24605	24742	24879	25016
	26867	27016	27165	27314	27463	27612
	29417	29578	29739	29900	30061	30222
	31983	32156	32329	32502	32675	32848
	34029	34214	34400	34585	34770	34955
	35997	36194	36391	36588	36785	36982
	37987	38196	38405	38614	38823	39032
	39954	40174	40394	40614	40834	41054
	42097	42328	42559	42790	43021	43252
	43473	43716	43959	44202	44445	44688
	45897	46152	46407	46662	46917	47172
	48683	48949	49215	49481	49747	50013
	51871	52149	52427	52705	52983	53261
	54861	55150	55440	55729	56019	56308
	57603	57903	58203	58503	58803	59103
	60707	61018	61329	61640	61951	62262
	63529	63852	64175	64498	64821	65144
	66977	67312	67647	67982	68317	68652
	69917	70264	70611	70958	71305	71652
	72693	73052	73411	73770	74129	74488
	75847	76218	76589	76960	77331	77702
	78933	79316	79700	80083	80466	80849
	81873	82268	82663	83058	83453	83848
	84747	85154	85561	85968	86375	86782
	87583	87992	88401	88810	89219	89628
	90737	91158	91579	91990	92401	92812
	93783	94206	94629	95052	95475	95898
	96837	97272	97707	98142	98577	99012
	99967	100414	100861	101308	101755	102202
	102649	103108	103567	104026	104485	104944
	105403	105874	106345	106816	107287	107758
	108219	108702	109185	109668	110151	110634
	111117	111612	112107	112602	113097	113592
	114087	114594	115101	115608	116115	116622
	117097	117616	118135	118654	119173	119692
	120213	120744	121275	121806	122337	122868
	123399	123942	124485	125028	125571	126114
	126657	127212	127767	128322	128877	129432
	129987	130554	131121	131688	132255	132822
	133389	133968	134547	135126	135705	136284
	136863	137454	138045	138636	139227	139818
	140409	141012	141615	142218	142821	143424
	144027	144642	145257	145872	146487	147102
	147717	148344	148971	149598	150225	150852
	151479	152118	152757	153396	154035	154674
	155313	155964	156615	157266	157917	158568
	159219	159882	160545	161208	161871	162534
	163197	163872	164547	165222	165897	166572
	167247	167934	168621	169308	170005	170702
	171399	172108	172817	173526	174235	174944
	175653	176374	177095	177816	178537	179258
	180079	180812	181545	182278	183011	183744
	184477	185222	185967	186712	187457	188202
	188947	189704	190461	191218	191975	192732
	193489	194258	195027	195796	196565	197334
	198103	198884	199665	200446	201227	202008
	202789	203582	204375	205168	205961	206754
	207547	208352	209157	209962	210767	211572
	212377	213194	214011	214828	215645	216462
	217279	218108	218937	219766	220595	221424
	222253	223094	223935	224776	225617	226458
	227299	228152	229005	229858	230711	231564
	232417	233282	234147	235012	235877	236742
	237607	238484	239361	240238	241115	241992
	242869	243758	244647	245536	246425	247314
	248213	249114	250015	250916	251817	252718
	253619	254532	255445	256358	257271	258184
	259097	260022	260947	261872	262797	263722
	264647	265584	266521	267458	268395	269332
	270269	271218	272167	273116	274065	275014
	275963	276924	277885	278846	279807	280768
	281729	282702	283675	284648	285621	286594
	287567	288552	289537	290522	291507	292492
	293477	294474	295471	296468	297465	298462
	299459	300468	301477	302486	303495	304504
	305513	306534	307555	308576	309597	310618
	311639	312672	313705	314738	315771	316804
	317837	318882	319927	320972	322017	323062
	324107	325164	326221	327278	328335	329392
	330449	331518	332587	333656	334725	335794
	336863	337944	339025	340106	341187	342268
	343349	344442	345535	346628	347721	348814
	349907	351012	352117	353222	354327	355432
	356537	357654	358771	359888	361005	362122
	363239	364368	365497	366626	367755	368884
	370013	371154	372295	373436	374577	375718
	376859	378012	379165	380318	381471	382624
	383777	384942	386107	387272	388437	389602
	390767	391944	393121	394308	395495	396682
	397869	399072	400275	401478	402681	403884
	405087	406302	407517	408732	409947	411162
	412377	413604	414831	416058	417285	418512
	419739	420978	422217	423456	424695	425934
	427173	428424	429675	430926	432177	433428
	434679	435942	437205	438468	439731	440994
	442257	443532	444807	446082	447357	448632
	449907	451194	452481	453768	455055	456342
	457629	458928	460227	461526	462825	464124
	465423	466734	468045	469356	470667	471978
	473289	474612	475935	477258	478581	479904
	481227	482572	483917	485262	486607	487952
	489297	490654	492011	493368	494725	496082
	497439	498812	500185	501558	502931	504304
	505677	507062	508447	509832	511217	512602
	513987	515384	516781	518178	519575	520972
	522369	523778	525187	526596	528005	529414
	530823	532244	533665	535086	536507	537928
	539349	540782	542215	543648	545081	546514
	547957	549402	550847	552292	553737	555182
	556627	558084	559541	560998	562455	563912
	565369	566844	568319	569794	571269	572744
	574229	575716	577203	578690	580	