

# *International Boundary Study*

SERIES A

## LIMITS IN THE SEAS

*Straight Baselines*

SWEDEN



BUREAU OF  
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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 47

*STRAIGHT BASELINES: SWEDEN*

The Geographer  
Office of the Geographer  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

## **STRAIGHT BASELINES: SWEDEN**

On June 3, 1966, the Kingdom of Sweden passed a law on the delimitation of the national territorial sea:

(b) ACT<sup>1</sup> No. 374 of 3 June 1966 Concerning the Territorial Waters of Sweden\*\*

### ***Article 1***

The territorial waters of Sweden shall comprise the internal waters and the territorial sea. In the direction of the open sea or the territory of another State, the territorial waters shall be bounded by the territorial limits.

### ***Article 2***

The internal waters shall include:

(a) Lakes, watercourses and canals;

(b) Harbours, bays and inlets situated along the coasts, and such water areas situated behind and between islands, holms and skerries as are bounded by straight lines determined by the King.

However, in the area between Klagshamn light and Kullen in the Sound, only harbours shall be included in the internal waters.

### ***Article 3***

The territorial sea shall include the water area situated outside the land areas and the internal waters of Sweden to a breadth of four nautical miles or 7,408 metres.

However, the territorial sea:

(a) in the area nearest to the boundary with Norway, shall extend as far as a line at a distance of four nautical miles from and parallel to the straight line running through the northernmost of the skerries designated as "Stora Drammen" and the Hejeknubb half-submerged rock situated south-east of Heja Island;

(b) in the Sound, shall not extend beyond the line in the longitudinal direction of the Sound which is specified in the Declaration between Sweden and Denmark of 30 January 1932 concerning the boundaries of the Sound;

(c) in the Aland Strait, shall not extend beyond the boundary with Finland; shall

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<sup>1</sup> Svensk forfattningssamling 1966, No. 374. Came into force on 1 July 1966

(d) in the area nearest to the boundary with Finland in the Gulf of Bothnia, shall extend as far as a line at a distance of four nautical miles from and parallel to the straight line running from the southernmost skerry off Letto Island to the southernmost skerry off Selkasarvi Island.

#### **Article 4**

In the use of land areas, the territorial sea shall be measured from the low-water line along the coast. Where, however, a skerry is exposed at low water but is submerged at half tide, the territorial sea shall be measured from such skerry only if it is situated at a distance of not more than four nautical miles from the nearest land area belonging to Sweden which is exposed at half tide.

In the case of internal waters situated along the coasts, the territorial sea shall be measured from the outer boundaries (straight baselines) of such water areas.

The straight baselines system authorized in Article 4 was enacted by the Royal Notice No. 375 of the same day:

(c) Royal Notice<sup>1</sup> No. 375 of 3 June 1966 Containing Regulations on the Measurement of the Territorial Waters of Sweden\*\*

#### **Article 1**

The straight baselines referred to in article 4, second paragraph, of the Act<sup>2</sup> concerning the territorial waters of Sweden shall extend between those points on the low-water line along the coast which are given in the attached list (baseline points) or, in the case of a harbour on the open coast, shall extend across the mouth of the harbour.

Between baseline point 103 and the boundary with Finland, the territorial sea shall be measured from a straight baseline which coincides with the straight line running between point 103 and the southernmost skerry off Selkasarvi Island (approximate position 65° 36.2' N. 24° 12.2' E).

#### **Article 2**

Save as otherwise provided in article 3, second paragraph, of the Act concerning the territorial waters of Sweden, the measurement of the territorial sea shall be effected in such manner that every point along the territorial limits shall be situated at a distance of four nautical miles from the nearest point on the coastline as referred to in article 4 of the said Act or the nearest point on a straight baseline.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., No. 375. Came into force on 1 July 1966.

<sup>2</sup> Supra under (a)

### **List of baseline points**

A horizontal line across column 1 denotes an interruption in the system of straight baselines.

1	2	3	4
Baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate Position	
1	The center of a straight line connecting the northernmost of the skerries designated as "Stora Drammen" and the Hejeknubb half-submerged rock situated south-east of Heja Island. (According to the arbitral award of 23 October 1909 in the question of the maritime boundary between Sweden and Norway).	58°56.5'N	10°55.2'E
2	Stora Drammen. North point	58°55.8'N	10°57.7' E
3	Stora Drammen west. West point	58°55.8'N	10°57.6' E
4	Klavningen-Morholmen. West point	58°53.3'N	10°57.8'E
5	Segelskaren. West point	58°46.7'N	10°58.7'E
6	Trolleskaren. West point	58°32.2'N	11°01.3'E
7	Yttre Brottet. South-west point	58°19.7'N	11°12.4'E
8	Maseskar. West point	58°05.7'N	11°19.7'E
9	Dynan. West point	57°53.7'N	11°26.3'E
10	Vinga Ungar. West point	57°38.2'N	11°35.5'E
11	Klockfoten. South-west point	57°17.8'N	11°53.8'E
12	Klaback. South-west point	57°09.1'N	12°06.6'E
13	Rodskar. South-west point	57°03.8'N	12°14.6'E
14	Lindbaden. West point	56°55.1'N	12°21.5'E
15	Marsten. South-west point	56°49.8'N	12°31.2'E
16	Busorereven. South-west point	56°43.8'N	12°37.4'E
17	Tylo. West point	56°38.9'N	12°42.6'E
18	Hallands Vadero. West point	56°27.1'N	12°32.6'E
19	Kullen, West point	56°18.2'N	12°26.9'E
20	Klagshamn. West point	55°31.2'N	12°53.2'E
21	Vastra Haken. North-west point	55°27.2'N	12°50.5'E
22	Skanor. West point	55°25.0'N	12°49.6'E
23	Falsterbo. South-west point	55°22.7'N	12°48.8'E
24	Maklappen north.	55°21.9'N	12°48.4'E
25	Maklappen south-west. West-south-west point	55°21.4'N	12°48.5'E
25	Falsterborev. South point	55°20.2'N	12°49.0'E
27	Segelskaren. South-east point	55°22.7'N	12°56.1'E
28	Skare lage. South point	55°22.5'N	13°03.2'E
29	Revhaken. South point	55°54.4'N	14°18.4'E
30	Kraknabben. South-east point	55°59.6'N	14°43.4'E
31	Hano south. South point	56°00.0'N	14°50.7'E
32	Hano south-east. South-east point	56°00.3'N	14°51.6'E

1	2	3	4
Baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate Position	
33	Tarno. South-south-east point	56°06.6'N	14°58.5'E
34	Vitbaden. South-west point	56°04.8'N	15°28.7'E
35	Utklippan south-west. South-west point of the south-westernmost skerry of the island group	55°56.8'N	15°42.1'E
36	Utklippan south-east. South-east point of the south-easternmost skerry of the island group	55°56.9'N	15°42.4'E
37	Utlangan. South-east point	56°00.7'N	15°47.6'E
38	Southern point of Oland. South-east point	56°11.7'N	16°24.3'E
39	Langlot. Easternmost skerry east-south-east of Langlot church.	56°44.0'N	16°46.0'E
40	Kapelludden. East-south-east point	56°49.2'N	16°51.0'E
41	Langoreudde. East point	56°50.8'N	16°52.3'E
42	Kenasudden. East point	57°10.7'N	17°04.6'E
43	Strandtorp. East point	57°13.7'N	17°05.2'E
44	Angjarnsudden. East point	57°18.5'N	17°09.3'E
45	North-eastern point of Oland. North-east point	57°21.4'N	17°07.8'E
46	Lilla Baden. East point	57°35.7'N	16°49.9'E
47	Kungsgrundet. Light	57°41.1'N	16°54.4'E
48	Storklappen. East point	58°18.6'N	16°51.1'E
49	Sandsankan. East point	58°18.6'N	17°10.0'E
50	Torsken. South point	58°32.1'N	17°13.3'E
51	Yttre Karvasen. South-south-east point	58°42.7'N	17°58.4'E
52	Yttre Karvasen. South-east point	58°42.8'N	17°58.5'E
53	Roxen. South-east point	58°43.9'N	18°01.4'E
54	Vasterbommen. South-east point	58°57.5'N	18°35.4'E
55	Stora Ivarn. South-east point	58°58.3'N	18°37.0'E
56	Sjalberget. South-east point	59°04.0'N	18°48.3'E
57	Osterskar. South-east point	59°18.4'N	19°11.6'E
58	Soderbaden. South-east point	59°25.1'N	19°30.1'E
59	Ytterberget	59°37.2'N	19°38.7'E
60	Langden. North-north-east point	59°44.3'N	19°27.8'E
61	Tjarven. North-east point	59°47.6'N	19°22.4'E
62	Bjorkabaden. North-east point	59°53.6'N	19°05.8'E
63	Bysholmen. East point	60°02.4'N	18°51.7'E
64	Halsaren. East point	60°13.3'N	18°55.0'E
65	Travarbulten (Travarn). East point	60°14.4'N	18°55.2'E
66	Understen. East point	60°16.6'N	18°55.5'E
67	Klacken. North-east point	60°25.7'N	18°49.7'E
68	Hogkallegrund. North-east point	60°31.0'N	18°30.2'E
69	Jarngrund. North-east point	60°38.5'N	18°01.3'E
70	Lofgrunds rabar. North-east point	60°49.3'N	17°31.3'E
71	Storskvalpet. East point	61°10.5'N	17°20.6'E
72	Hallgrund. Light	61°16.7'N	17°24.1'E
73	Ago. East point	61°32.6'N	17°28.3'E
74	Gashallan. East-south-east point	61°43.4'N	17°33.6'E
75	Gran. East point	62°01.0'N	17°38.8'E
76	Bramon. East point	62°13.1'N	17°44.9'E

1	2	3	4
Baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate Position	
77	Svenskar. East point	62°30.7'N	17°53.8'E
78	Harnoklubb. South-east point	62°36.0'N	18°03.6'E
79	Guldgrundet. South-east point	62°51.3'N	18°28.3'E
80	Gnaggen. South-east point	62°56.7'N	18°37.5'E
81	Skags Flasor. South-east point	63°12.3'N	19°05.4'E
82	Sjalbadan. South-east point	63°15.1'N	19°12.0'E
83	Norra Langrogrundet. South-south-east point	63°19.3'N	19°40.9'E
84	Sydvasbrotten. South-east point	63°24.8'N	20°01.8'E
85	Sonnerstgrundkallen. South-east point	63°34.5'N	20°44.6'E
86	Svartbadahallan. South-east point	63°35.3'N	20°47.2'E
87	Jagarstenen.	63°40.4'N	20°55.5'E
88	Idmanskallen. East-south-east point	63°41.0'N	20°56.2'E
89	Stora Fjaderagg east. East point	63°48.6'N	21°01.2'E
90	Stora Fjaderagg north-east. East-north-east point	63°48.8'N	21°01.0'E
91	Blankhallan. East point	63°59.0'N	20°54.9'E
92	Yttre Vanskar. South-east point	64°09.7'N	21°08.1'E
93	Blackallen. South-east point	64°20.1'N	21°31.2'E
94	Grundskaten. East-south-east point	64°26.0'N	21°37.1'E
95	Kapagrund. East point	64°27.3'N	21°37.4'E
96	Skotgronnan. East point	64°35.7'N	21°30.6'E
97	Storgrundet. South-east point	64°52.2'N	21°18.2'E
98	Ronnskar. South-east point	65°01.9'N	21°34.1'E
99	Sodra Bondokallarna. South-east point	65°07.7'N	21°53.4'E
100	Marakallen. South-east point	65°16.9'N	22°37.0'E
101	Manshallorna. South point	65°27.8'N	22°46.2'E
102	Maloren. South-south-east point	65°31.2'N	23°33.7'E
103	Letto. South point	65°35.2'N	23°57.2'E
	<i>Gotland</i>		
104	Nyrevsudden. West-north-west point	57°32.1'N	18°06.5'E
105	Utholmen. West point	57°25.9'N	18°05.3'E
106	Lilla Karlso west. West point	57°18.7'N	18°03.2'E
107	Lilla Karslo. West-south-west point	57°18.6'N	18°03.3'E
108	Hammarudd. West point	57°15.5'N	18°05.6'E
109	Nasrevet. West point	57°03.3'N	18°09.5'E
110	Hoburg. West point	56°55.2'N	18°07.5'E
111	Barshageudd. South point	56°54.4'N	18°11.7'E
112	Heligholmen. South-east point	56°55.3'N	18°17.3'E
113	Raudehunden. South-east point	56°57.6'N	18°21.4'E
114	Faludden. South-east point	56°59.7'N	18°24.1'E
115	Narsholmen. South-east point	57°13.4'N	18°42.1'E
116	Ostergarn south. South point	57°25.8'N	18°59.3'E
117	Ostergarn north-east. North-east point	57°26.8'N	18°59.5'E
118	Kyrkebingegrund. East point	57°33.7'N	18°49.3'E
119	Rute Missloper. South-east point	57°45.9'N	19°05.6'E

1	2	3	4
Baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate Position	
120	Holmudden. South-east point	57°57.5'N	19°21.2'E
121	Skarsandan. North point	57°59.2'N	19°18.5'E
122	Norsholmen. North point	57°59.9'N	19°14.6'E
123	Langhammarshammaren. North point	58°00.0'N	19°11.4'N
124	Hallshuk. North point	57°55.9'N	18°43.6'E

Since the 1934 version of the Swedish straight baselines was shown on large-scale nautical charts, the more recent version probably has been published. The Office of the Geographer has not, however, seen these sheets.

The new baseline system represents a marked modification of the 1934 system in that the number of points used has been drastically reduced and the length of lines significantly increased. The system, however, remains essentially compatible with the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. Furthermore, the system is very similar to those drawn by Norway and Finland (see attached chart).

### ANALYSIS

A general analysis of the length and nature of the straight baselines within the system is given below:

Line	Length	Comments
1-2	1.5	Line 1-2 commences from a Norwegian islet; point one on the Swedish system is marked by the intersection of the line with the Norwegian-Swedish territorial sea boundary. This highly unusual system has been employed by Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Finland.
3-4	2.4	After a short discontinuity in the system, line 3-4 extends along a skerry-strewn coastline.
4-5	6.8	Generally parallels the mainland.
5-6	14.5	Center of the line is about 4.4 n.m. from the mainland.
6-7	13.8	1966 line is about 1.5 n.m. seaward of the 1934 line's deepest penetration (landward).
7-8	14.5	
8-9	12.5	
9-10	16.2	
10-11	23.6	This new segment, for example, replaces three segments situated landward of 10-11. The former turning points were situated between .2 and .9 n.m. shoreward of the 1966 line.
11-12	11.3	2.2 n.m. seaward of the apex of the previous lines.
12-13	7.0	
13-14	8.8	Coast is generally indented, but skerries exist only on near-shore.

Line	Length	Comments
14-15	7.5	
15-16	6.8	
16-17	5.8	
17-18	13.0	These two segments close dual bays, both of which are juridical bays.
18-19	14.5	
Sub-total (17)	<u>180.5</u>	The seventeen segments of straight baselines enclose, for all practical purposes, the entire Skagerak coast of Sweden within the system.
20-21	4.6	The two segments enclose a small juridical bay and harbor.
21-22	2.2	
22-23	2.2	The coastline is essentially featureless, and the justification of these lines is difficult to understand; the effects are minimal.
23-24	1.5	
25-26	1.1	
26-27	4.5	
27-28	4.3	
Sub-total (7)	<u>20.4</u>	There is a slight break between points 24 and 25.
29-30	15.0	Enclose Solvesborg Fjord which does not conform to juridical bay requirements unless the embayment is considered to be a multimouthed bay.
30-31	4.1	Slight discontinuity between points 31 and 32.
32-33	7.5	Closes Karlshamm fjord.
33-34	17.8	Entire coastline is skerry-fringed and deeply indented through point no. 37.
34-35	10.7	
35-36	.1	
36-37	4.8	
37-38	23.3	Joins the island of Oland to the mainland about 12.5 nautical miles seaward of 1934 line.
Sub-total (8)	<u>83.3</u>	
39-40	5.8	Skerries close on-shore.
40-41	1.8	
41-42	20.8	
42-43	3.4	Justification of certain segments difficult due to lack of fringing islands or <u>deep</u> indentations of coast, e.g., Bodo Bugt is not a juridical bay. Break of 3.5 n.m. in system at northeast tip of Oland.
43-44	5.4	
45-46	17.0	Rejoins Oland to the mainland about 8.5 n.m. north of the 1934 union.
46-47	6.0	
47-48	9.7	
48-49	30.0	The longest segment of the system; it is well short of the Norwegian maximum of 40.00 n.m. for a geographic line. It replaces six lines the 1934 system extending baseline system about 2.7 n.m. seaward.
49-50	13.7	
50-51	25.8	

Line	Length	Comments
51-52	.1	
52-53	2.0	
53-54	21.7	
54-55	1.5	
55-56	8.2	Both points are symbolized as low-tide elevations as are others in the general system area.
56-57	18.8	
57-58	11.5	
58-59	13.0	
59-60	8.9	
60-61	4.4	
61-62	10.4	
63-64	11.4	
64-65	1.0	
65-66	2.2	Fenno-Swedish island of Marken is not used as a basepoint in the system although used by the Finns.
66-67	19.5	
67-68	11.0	
68-69	16.4	
69-70	18.2	
70-71	21.9	
71-72	6.6	
72-73	15.7	
73-74	11.4	Central section of this line previously had no straight baseline.
74-75	18.0	
75-76	12.6	
76-77	17.7	
77-78	7.5	
78-79	19.0	
79-80	6.9	
80-81	20.1	
81-82	4.3	
82-83	13.5	Basepoint No. 83 is on an island which previously was situated 5.7 n.m. seaward of the 1934 straight baseline system.
83-84	10.8	Basepoint No. 84 is 3.5 n.m. seaward of previous straight baseline system.
84-85	21.5	Basepoints Nos. 85 and 86 were part of the 1934 system.
85-86	1.5	
86-87	6.2	
87-88	.7	
88-89	8.1	A slight discontinuity exists between Nos. 89 and 90.

Line	Length	Comments
90-91	11.0	
91-92	12.2	
92-93	14.5	Points 93 - 95 were in the previous system of straight baselines.
93-94	6.4	
94-95	1.3	
95-96	9.5	
96-97	17.0	
97-98	11.9	
98-99	5.1	
99-100	20.4	Basepoint No. 100 is about 5.9 n.m. seaward of point in previous system.
100-101	11.5	
101-102	20.1	Major deviation between the 1934 and 1966 systems. Newer one includes in Swedish territorial and internal waters a triangular area of c. 100 sq. n.m.
102-103	10.5	
103	5.4	To Fenno-Swedish sea boundary.
Sub-total (63)	<u>711.8</u>	
104-105	6.4	Coastline is only slightly indented.
105-106	6.8	Slight discontinuity in system between Nos. 106 and 107. System joins two small offshore islands to Gotland but leaves island of St. Karlsö beyond system.
107-108	3.3	
108-109	12.4	Difficult to justify, but the system has little effect on the territorial sea limit.
109-110	8.5	Enclosed Burgs Viken, a juridical bay. Discontinuity to No. 111.
111-112	3.1	
112-113	4.4	Nos. 112-114 were part of 1934 system.
113-114	2.5	
114-115	17.0	
115-116	15.8	Slight discontinuity between Nos. 116 and 117.
117-118	9.0	
118-119	15.1	The two points form part of 1934 system; five intervening points, situated landward, have been omitted.
119-120	14.3	Slight break in system to No. 121.
121-122	2.3	These two lines enclose two small, juridical bays.
122-123	1.8	
123-124	15.4	Discontinuous to point of origin, Point No. 104 for a distance of about 32 n.m.
Sub-total (16)	<u>138.1</u>	
Total		<u>1,128.1 nautical miles</u> with 111 segments.

## SUMMARY

The Swedish straight baseline system of 1966 conforms generally with the Scandinavian pattern. In spite of the changes from the 1934 system, the length of lines remains essentially very short and they conform to a remarkable degree with the general direction of the coast criterion established in the Norwegian Fisheries Case and in the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. The longest straight-baseline segment measures approximately 30 nautical miles. The average length of line is slightly more than ten nautical miles. This average is comparable with other systems which may be judged conformal to the international practices of West European states. The system covers virtually the entire coastline of Sweden. Only in the extreme south and along the west coast of Gotland have important areas been left without straight baselines. Elsewhere, areas which do not contain deeply indented coasts or fringes of islands are enclosed occasionally within the system; however, the effects of these lines are minimal in extending the outer limit of the territorial sea. According to the descriptions, the turning points are high-tide elevations or contain navigation lights. On the charts, however, a number are symbolized as low-tide elevations.

Sweden is not a party to the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone.

EUROPE  
**BALTIC SEA**

From the latest information to 1940  
SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS  
For Symbols and Abbreviations, see Chart No. 1

**NOTE**  
The boundaries indicated upon this chart have no official significance. They are approximate only, and are shown thus: - - - - -

Magnetic variation curves are for 1955  
Figures in parentheses indicate annual change

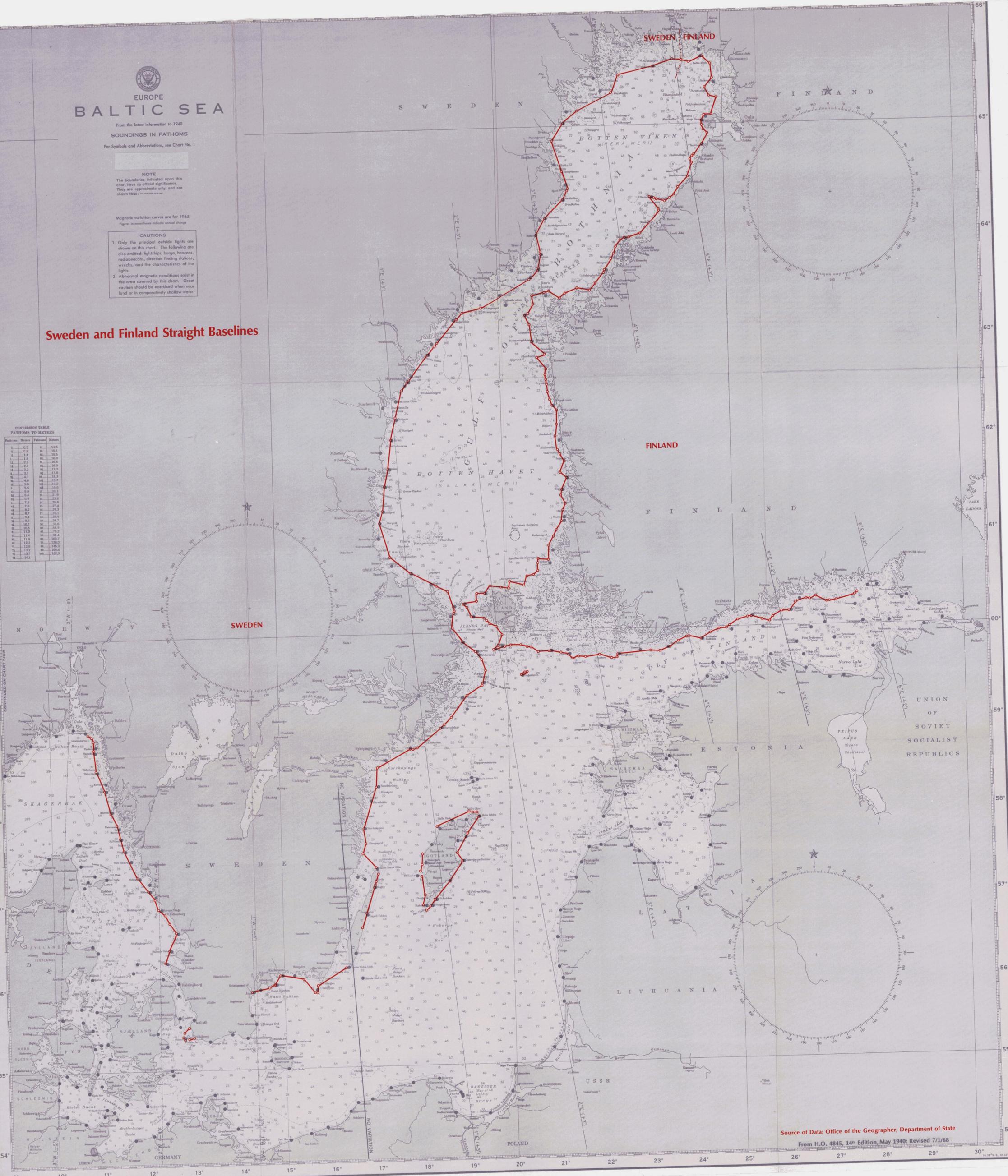
- CAUTIONS**
1. Only the principal outside lights are shown on this chart. The following are also omitted: lightships, buoys, beacons, radiobeacons, direction finding stations, wrecks, and the characteristics of the lights.
  2. Abnormal magnetic conditions exist in the area covered by this chart. Great caution should be exercised when near land or in comparatively shallow water.

**Sweden and Finland Straight Baselines**

**CONVERSION TABLE  
FATHOMS TO METERS**

Fathoms	Meters	Fathoms	Meters
1	0.5	8	14.6
1	0.9	9	16.5
1	1.4	10	18.3
1	1.8	11	20.1
1	2.3	12	22.0
1	2.7	13	23.8
1	3.3	14	25.6
1	3.7	15	27.4
1	4.3	16	29.3
1	4.6	17	31.1
1	5.0	18	32.9
1	5.5	19	34.7
1	5.9	20	36.6
1	6.4	21	38.4
1	6.9	22	40.3
1	7.3	23	42.1
1	7.8	24	43.9
1	8.2	25	45.7
1	8.7	26	47.6
1	9.1	27	49.4
1	9.6	28	51.3
1	10.1	29	53.1
1	10.5	30	54.9
1	11.0	31	56.7
1	11.4	32	58.6
1	11.9	33	60.4
1	12.3	34	62.3
1	12.8	35	64.1
1	13.2	36	65.9
1	13.7	37	67.7
1	14.1	38	69.6

CONTINUED ON CHART BOSS



Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State  
From H.O. 4845, 14th Edition, May 1940; Revised 7/1/68