

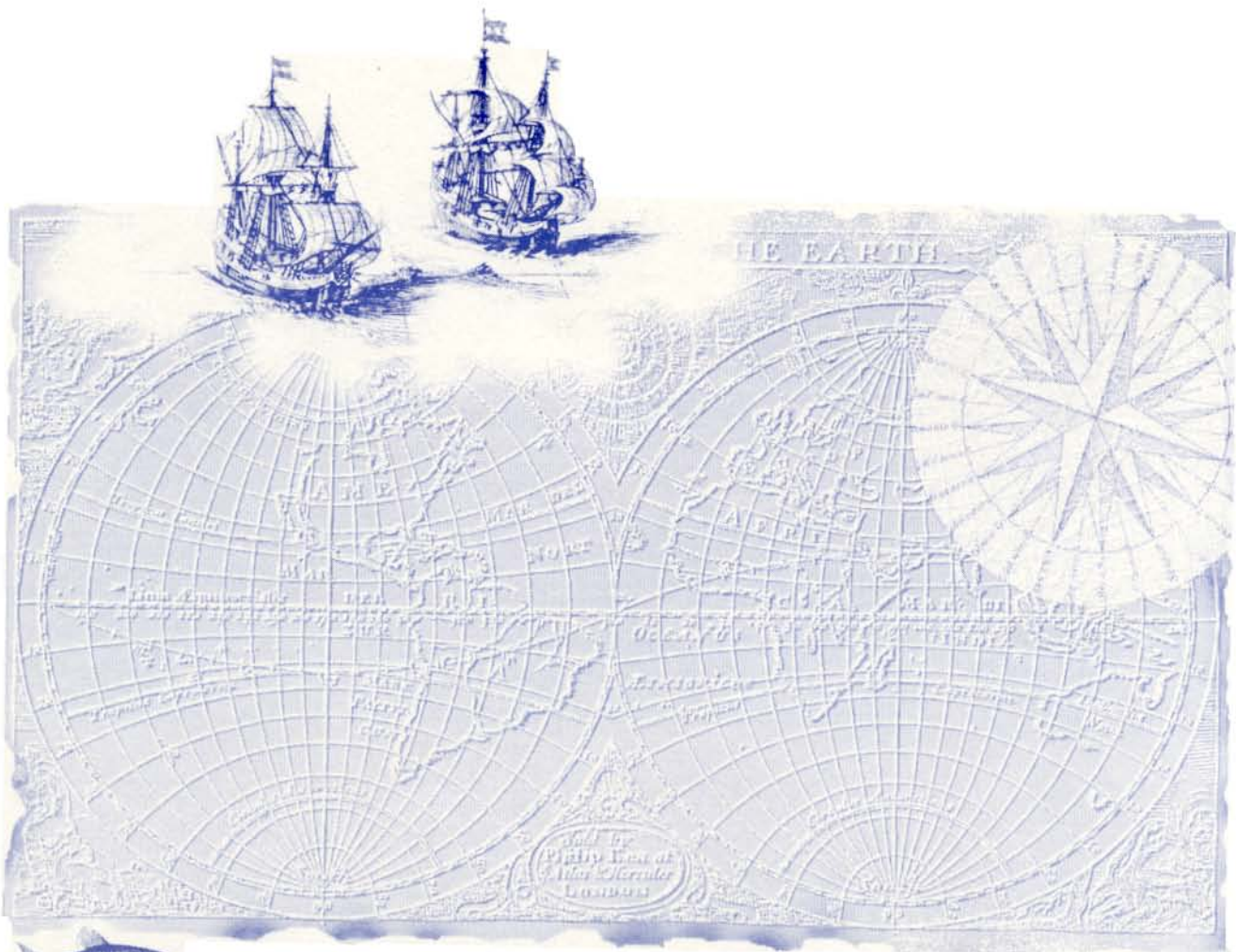


Limits in the Seas

No. 36

**National Claims to
Maritime Jurisdictions**

8th Revision



This paper is one of a series issued by the Office of Oceans Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs in the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis of national arrangements for the measurement of marine areas by coastal states. It is intended for background use only. This paper does not necessarily represent an official acceptance by the United States Government of the limits claimed.

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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

**No. 36
8th Revision**

NATIONAL CLAIMS TO MARITIME JURISDICTION

Compiled and Edited by

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May 25, 2000

**Office of Oceans Affairs
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs**

INTRODUCTION

It has been five years since this compilation of national maritime claims was last published in early 1995.

Information contained in this study represents information received by the Office of Oceans Affairs as of May 15, 2000. For an analysis of the U.S. position on law of the sea claims, see *Limits in the Seas* No. 112, "United States Responses to Excessive National Maritime Claims," March 9, 1992, and J. Ashley Roach and Robert W. Smith, *United States Responses to Excessive Maritime Claims*, Second Edition, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1996.

Abbreviations used in the following pages include:

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EIF: Entered into force.

FRG: Federal Republic of Germany

GDR: German Democratic Republic

LIS: *Limits in the Seas*

LOS: Law of the Sea

nm: Nautical mile (1,852 meters)

200/cm: Continental shelf claim of 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin 1958 Convention definition: Definition used in the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf: 200 meters or to the depth of exploitation.

Albania				
Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	2-23-76	Decree No. 5384	15 nm	Foreign warships may enter zone only with special authorization. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1989.</i>
	3-24-90	Decree No. 7366 of March 9, 1990	12 nm	
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	3-09-70	Decree No. 4650		Establishes straight baselines. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1989.</i>
	2-23-76	Decree No. 5384		Baseline modification.
	3-24-90	Decree No. 7366 of March 9, 1990		Repeats baseline claim: see LIS 116.
Contiguous zone				
Continental shelf	3-09-70	Decree No. 4650	1958 Convention Definition	
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	2-23-76	Decree No. 5384	15 nm	Fishery zone
Maritime Boundaries	12-18-92			Agreement with Italy signed.
LOS Convention				

Algeria

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	10-12-63	Decree No. 63-403	12 nm	Foreign warships must obtain permission prior to entering. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1964 and 1982.</i>
	10-18-72	Decree No. 72-194		Military-related vessels must request authorization 15 days in advance. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1982.</i>
	6-11-96	Declaration upon ratifying the LOS Convention		Reiterated prior permission requirement.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	8-04-84	Decree No. 84-181		Establishes straight baselines
Contiguous zone				
Continental shelf				
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	5-28-94	Decree 94-13	32-52 nm	Fishing zone; 32 nm between western maritime border and Ras Tenes; 52 nm between Ras Tenes and eastern maritime border.
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982, with a declaration; ratified June 11, 1996, with a declaration. Bound, by participation, to Part XI Agreement June 1, 1996.			

Angola

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	8-28-92	Law 21/92	12 nm	Rolled back its Sea excessive claim of 20 nm (made in 1975).
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	6-27-67	Decree No. 47,771 (Portugal)		Establishes straight baselines: see LIS No. 28.
Contiguous zone	8-28-92	Law 21/92	24 nm	
Continental shelf				
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	8-28-92	Law 21/92	200 nm	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982, with a declaration reserving its right to interpret the Convention in the context of "Angolan sovereignty and territorial integrity"; ratified December 5, 1990.			

Antigua and Barbuda

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	8-17-82	Territorial Waters Act No. 18	12 nm	Foreign warships must obtain permission prior to entering. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1987.</i>
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	8-17-82	Act No. 18		Enabling legislation for archipelagic straight baselines
Contiguous zone	8-17-82	Act No. 18	24 nm	
Continental shelf	8-17-82	Act No. 18	200/CM	
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones Maritime Boundaries	8-17-82	Act No. 18	200 nm	EEZ
LOS Convention	Signed February 7, 1983; ratified February 2, 1989			

Argentina

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	1-19-67	Law No. 17,094	200 nm	Freedom of Sea of navigation and December 29, 1966 overflight guaranteed beyond 12 nm. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1967.</i>
	9-13-91	Act No. 23,968 of August 14, 1991	12 nm	
	12-01-95	Statement accompanying Law of the Sea ratification		Foreign warships must obtain Convention permission prior to entering territorial sea.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	1-30-61	Joint Declaration with Uruguay	Rio de la Plata as historic waters	Freedom of navigation and overflight guaranteed seaward of closing line. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1963.</i>
	1-19-67	Law No. 17,094 of December 29, 1966		Establishes closing lines for Gulfs of Nuevo, San Matias, and San Jorge; see LIS No. 44. <i>U.S. protests claim for latter two closing lines in 1967.</i>
	9-13-91	Act No. 23,968 of August 14, 1991		Straight baseline claim.
Contiguous zone	9-13-91	Act No. 23,968 of August 14, 1991	24 nm	
Continental shelf	1-19-67	Law No. 17,094 of December 29, 1966	1958 definition	
	4-03-75	Diplomatic Note		Specifies regulations for marine scientific research.
	9-13-91	Act No. 23,968 of August 14, 1991	200/CM	
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	9-13-91	Act No. 23,968 of August 14, 1991	200 nm	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries	2-12-74			Agreement with Uruguay EIF; see LIS No. 64.
	5-06-85			Agreement with Chile EIF.
LOS Convention	Signed October 5, 1984, with a declaration; ratified December 1, 1995, with a declaration that reaffirms sovereignty claim over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich islands and the respective maritime zones established from those islands. Signed Part XI Agreement July 29, 1994; ratified December 1, 1995.			

Australia

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	2-14-83	Proclamation of Feb. 4, 1983	Various	Limits of certain Sea islands fixed in the Torres Strait Treaty.
	11-20-90	Proclamation	12 nm	Certain islands cited in Seas and Submerged Lands Act, 1983, are excepted.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	10-31-67	Ministerial Statement		Straight baselines straight drawn across Shark Bay, St. Vincent Gulf and Spencer Gulf which exceed 24 nm.
	2-14-83	Proclamation of Feb. 4, 1983		Establishes straight baselines.
	3-19-87	Proclamation		Establishes straight baselines. Declares Anxious Bay, Encounter Bay, Lacedpede Bay, and Rivoli Bay historic bays. <i>U.S. protests these claims in 1991.</i>
Contiguous zone	8-01-94	Maritime Legislation Amendment Act 1994	24 nm	
	3-31-99	Proclamation of 31 March 1999	24 nm	
Continental shelf	9-11-53	Proclamation	Not specified	Does not affect character of high seas beyond territorial sea.
	11-22-67	Petroleum (Submerged Lands Act 1967)	1958 Convention definition	Regulates petroleum exploration and exploitation.
	4-15-70	Continental Shelf (Living Natural Resources) Act 1968		Regulates the taking of sedentary organisms on the continental shelf.
	12-04-73	Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973	1958 Convention definition	
	12-15-76	Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 Minerals (Submerged Lands)		Protects shipwrecks on continental shelf.
	6-18-81	Act 1981		Regulates mining of minerals on continental shelf.

	6-16-82	Off-shore Installations (Misc. Amendments) Act 1982		Applies customs, quarantine, immigration, and certain other laws to offshore installations.
	2-09-91			Treaty with Indonesia on the Zone of Cooperation in the "Timor Gap" EIF.
	8-01-94	Maritime Legislation Amendment Act 1994	200/CM	
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	2-01-82	Memorandum of Understanding		Agreement with Indonesia on a Provisional Fisheries Surveillance and Enforcement EIF.
	12-21-82	Proclamation		Modifies limits of fishing zone around certain island territories.
	8-01-94	Maritime Legislation Amendment Act	200 nm	EEZ; claim made to EEZ from its Antarctica claimed territories. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1994.</i>
Maritime Boundaries	11-08-73	Aust. T.S. 1973 Nos. 31		Two boundaries with Indonesia EIF; see and 32 LIS No. 87.
	1-09-83	Aust. T.S. No. 3		Two boundaries with Australia France (in Coral Sea and Indian Ocean) EIF.
	2-15-85	Aust. T.S. 1985, No. 4		Torres Strait Treaty with Papua New Guinea EIF.
	4-14-89	Aust. T.S. 1989 No. 12		Boundary agreement with Solomon Islands EIF.
	3-14-97			Boundary agreement with Indonesia signed.
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified October 5, 1994. Signed Part XI Agreement July 29, 1994; ratified October 5, 1994.			

Note: The laws and agreements in this entry are those of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian State Parliaments have passed additional marine legislation.

The Bahamas

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	8-16-1878	UK Territorial Waters Jurisdictional Act	3 nm	
	1-4-96	Archipelagic Waters and Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1993 (No. 37 of 1993)	12 nm	Repeals 1878 UK Territorial Waters Act.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	1-4-96	Act. No. 37 of 1993		Enabling legislation for archipelagic straight baselines; no specific geographic coordinates given.
Contiguous zone				
Continental shelf				
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	6-13-77	Fisheries Resources Act, 1977	200 nm	Fishing zone
	1-4-96	Act No. 37 of 1993	200 nm	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified July 29, 1983. Signed Part XI Agreement July 29, 1994; bound by simplified procedure, July 28, 1995.			

Bahrain

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	4-20-93	Decree No. 8	12 nm	
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims				
Contiguous zone	4-20-93	Decree No. 8	24 nm	
Continental shelf	6-05-49	Proclamation No. 37/1368	"...extending to boundaries to be determined..."	
	2-26-58			Boundary agreement with Saudi Arabia EIF; see LIS No. 12.
	5-14-72			Boundary agreement with Iran EIF; see LIS No. 58.
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones				
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified May 30, 1985.			

Bangladesh

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	4-13-74	Territorial Waters Act No. 26 and Proclamation No. LT-I/3/74		Foreign warships must obtain permission prior to entering. <i>U.S. protests claim and several others contained in this Act and proclamation in 1982.</i>
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	4-13-74	Proclamation No. LT-I/3/74		Claimed eight baseline points located on 10-fathom depth isobath. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1978.</i>
Contiguous zone	4-13-74	Act No. 26	18 nm	Claims jurisdiction over security regulations with the zone. <i>U.S. protests claim in 1982.</i>
Continental shelf	4-13-74	Act No. 26	"...up to the outer limits of the continental margin bordering on the ocean basin or abyssal floor."	
	8-74	Petroleum		Government has exclusive to explore and exploit petroleum.
EEZ/Fishing/Pollution zones	4-13-74	Act No. 26 and Proclamation No. LT-I/3/74	200 nm	EEZ: provides for pollution "...in the high seas adjacent to the territorial waters..."
Maritime Boundaries LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982			

Barbados

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	6-23-77	Territorial Waters Act, 1977-No. 26	12 nm	Foreign warships must obtain permission prior to entering. <i>U.S. protests this claim in 1982.</i>
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	6-23-77	Act No. 26		Enabling legislation for straight baselines.
Contiguous zone				
Continental shelf				
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	1-01-79	Proclamation of Dec. 29, 1978	200 nm	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified October 12, 1993. Part XI Agreement, signed Nov. 15, 1994; bound by simplified procedure, July 28, 1995.			

Belgium

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	11-01-87	Royal Decree of Oct. 6, 1987	12 nm	
	10-08-90			Boundary agreement with France signed.
	1-01-99			Boundary agreement with the Netherlands EIF.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims				
	Contiguous zone			
	Continental shelf	Law on the Continental Shelf		Median line with neighbors
			10-08-90	Boundary agreement with France signed.
	5-29-93		Boundary agreement with the UK EIF.	
	1-01-99		Boundary agreement with the Netherlands EIF.	
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	1-13-79	Royal decree on the Conservation of Fishery Resources	Median line with neighbors	Fishing zone (will extend approx. 68 km from the coast.)
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 5, 1984, with a declaration; ratified November 13, 1998. Signed Part XI Agreement July 29, 1994; ratified November 13, 1998.			

Belize

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	1-24-92	Maritime Areas Act	12/3 nm	Limit from mouth of Sarstoon River to Ranguana Caye to be defined by agreement with Guatemala.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	1-24-92	Maritime Areas Act	12/3 nm	Establishes straight baselines.
Contiguous zone Continental shelf EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones Maritime Boundaries LOS Convention	1-24-92	Maritime Areas Act	200 nm	EEZ
	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified August 13, 1983. Bound, by definitive signature, to Part XI Agreement October 21, 1994.			

Benin

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	4-02-76	Decree No. 76-92	200 nm	<i>U.S. protests claim in 1989.</i>
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	4-02-76	Decree No. 76-92	With respect to estuaries, territorial sea measured "from first obstacle to maritime navigation."	
Contiguous zone Continental shelf EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones Maritime Boundaries LOS Convention	Signed August 30, 1983; ratified August 25, 1997.			

Brazil

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	8-54	Decree No. 35,844		Requires permission for more than 3 warships in the territorial sea at one time.
	3-27-70	Decree Law No. 1098	200 nm	Enabling legislation for security regulations affecting warships and other public vessels. <i>U.S. protests this claim in 1970.</i>
	1-04-93	Law No. 8617	12 nm	
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	3-27-70	Decree Law No. 1098		Enabling legislation for straight baselines.
	1-04-93	Law No. 8617		LOS Convention Article 7 straight baseline criteria cited.
Contiguous zone Continental shelf EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	1-04-93	Law No. 8617	24 nm	
	1-04-93	Law No. 8617	200 nm/CM	
	1-04-93	Law No. 8617	200 nm	EEZ; military exercises can only be carried out with consent of Brazil.
Maritime Boundaries	6-12-75			Agreement with Uruguay EIF; see LIS No. 73.
	1-30-81			Agreement with France (French Guiana) EIF.
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982, with a declaration; ratified December 22, 1988, with a declaration that "...the provisions of the Convention do not authorize other States to carry out military exercises or maneuvers...in the exclusive economic zone without the consent of the coastal State...." <i>1982 declaration rejected by the U.S. when it exercised its right of reply in 1983 at UNCLOS III.</i> Signed Part XI Agreement July 29, 1994, subject to ratification.			

Brunei

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	9-11-58	Order in Council 1517		Boundaries with Malaysia for North Borneo (1517) and Sarawak (1518) established by the British. Waters of Brunei Enactment, 1982
	9-11-58	Order in Council 1518		
	2-10-83	Territorial	12 nm	
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims				
Contiguous zone				
Continental shelf	9-11-58	Order in Council 1517		Boundaries with Malaysia for North Borneo (1517) and Sarawak (1518) established by the British.
	9-11-58	Order in Council 1518		
EEZ/Fishing/ Pollution zones	7-21-93	Proclamation	200 nm or to median line	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries				
LOS Convention	Signed December 5, 1984; ratified November 5, 1996. Bound, by participation, to Part XI Agreement November 5, 1996.			

Bulgaria

Claim	Date	Source	Limits	Notes
Territorial Sea	10-10-51	Decree No. 514, as amended by Decree No. 90 of 11-09-51	12 nm	Foreign warships must obtain permission prior to entering. <i>U.S. protests this claim in 1952, 1984, 1985, and 1986.</i>
	7-08-87	Act Governing Ocean Space of Bulgaria		Innocent passage of warships limited to designated sea lanes.
	12-4-97			Boundary agreement with Turkey signed.
Archipelagic, straight baselines, and historic claims	10-10-51	Decree No. 514		Straight baselines enclose Varna and Bourgas Bays.
Contiguous zone	1-07-87	Decree No. 77	24 nm	
	7-08-87	Act Governing	24 nm	Ocean Space of Bulgaria
Continental shelf	8-31-62	Accession to Continental Shelf Convention	1958 Convention definition	
EEZ/Fishing/Pollution zones	7-08-87	Act Governing Ocean Space of Bulgaria	200 nm	EEZ
Maritime Boundaries	12-4-97			Agreement with Turkey signed.
LOS Convention	Signed December 10, 1982; ratified May 15, 1996.			

