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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 52

STRAIGHT BASELINES

EAST GERMANY

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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Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The basic document of the German Democratic Republic concerning the state frontiers, including the territorial sea, was enacted on March 19, 1964. The Ordinance for the Protection of the National Boundary of the German Democratic Republic (Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, April 21, 1964, pp. 255-62) provides in the "Regulations regarding the Administration of the Border Areas and Territorial Waters of the German Democratic Republic" for safeguarding the sovereignty and ensuring control over the waters of the state. Article 42 of Chapter IV refers to internal waters of the state; an annex delimits these as follows:

Annex to Section 42 of the foregoing Boundary Regulations

1. Wismar Bay up to the Hohenwischendorf-Huk-Poel-Oberfeuer Line

2. Salzhaff

3. Lower and upper Warnow (Breitling)

4. Saaler Bodden

5. Bodstedter Bodden

6. Barther Bodden

7. Grabower Bodden

8. Strelasund

9. Kupitzer Bodden

10. Prohner Wiek [Cove]

11. Udarser Wiek

12. Schaproder Bodden

13. Vitter Bodden

14. Rassower Bodden

15. Wieker Bodden

16. Breetzer Bodden

17. Breeger Bodden

18. Big and Little Jasmunder Bodden

19. Rugischer Bodden

20. Griefswalder Bodden up to the Peenemunde-Hafen-Ruden-Thiessow Line

21. Achterwasser

22. Krumminer Wiek

23. Peenestrom

24. Kleines Haff up to the Newerow-Warsin Line

The Notice of Mariners (Nautische Mitteilungen fur Seefahrer), published by the Seehydrographischer Dienst, Rostock, No. 2 of January 1969, provided for the precise delimitation and enclosure of these internal waters. The text delimited the baseline of the GDR as follows:

Baseline for the German Democratic Republic

The baseline for the measurement of the territorial sea of the German Democratic Republic is delimited by the coastline and by straight baselines between the coordinates of the following points:

1.	Commencing at the German-Polish state boundary along the coastline to	53°55.7'	North
		14°13.7'	East
2.	Peenemuender Haken (to)	54°10.0'	North
		13°48.7'	East
3.	Greifswalde Oie (to)	54°14.0'	North
		13°55.6'	East
4.	Nord-Perd (to)	54°20.5'	North
		13°46.1'	East
5.	Kollicker Ort, along the coastline to:	54°33.8'	North
		13°40.9'	East

6.	Ranzow (to)	54°35.1'	North
		13°38.4'	East
7.	Kap Arkona, along the coastline to	54°41.1'	North
		13°25.8'	East
8.	Rehberg Ort (to)	54°38.2'	North
		13°13.2'	East
9.	Dornbusch (Insel[Island] Hiddensee) (to)	54°36.3'	North
		13°08.1'	East
10.	Darssler Ort, along the coastline to	54°29.0'	North
		12°31.2'	East
11.	Wustrow peninsula (to)	54°05.6'	North
		11°33.3'	East
12.	Gross-Klutz-Hoved, along the coastline to	54°00.9'	North
		11°10.9'	East
13.	To the state boundary between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany	53°57.4'	North
		10°54.4'	East

The decree lines have been plotted on the attached US nautical chart.

ANALYSIS

The East German straight baselines constitute a relatively conservative system. Basically, the system ties the major island of Rugen and several smaller subsidiary islands to the mainland. One line segment, 11-12, is a normal bay-closing line.

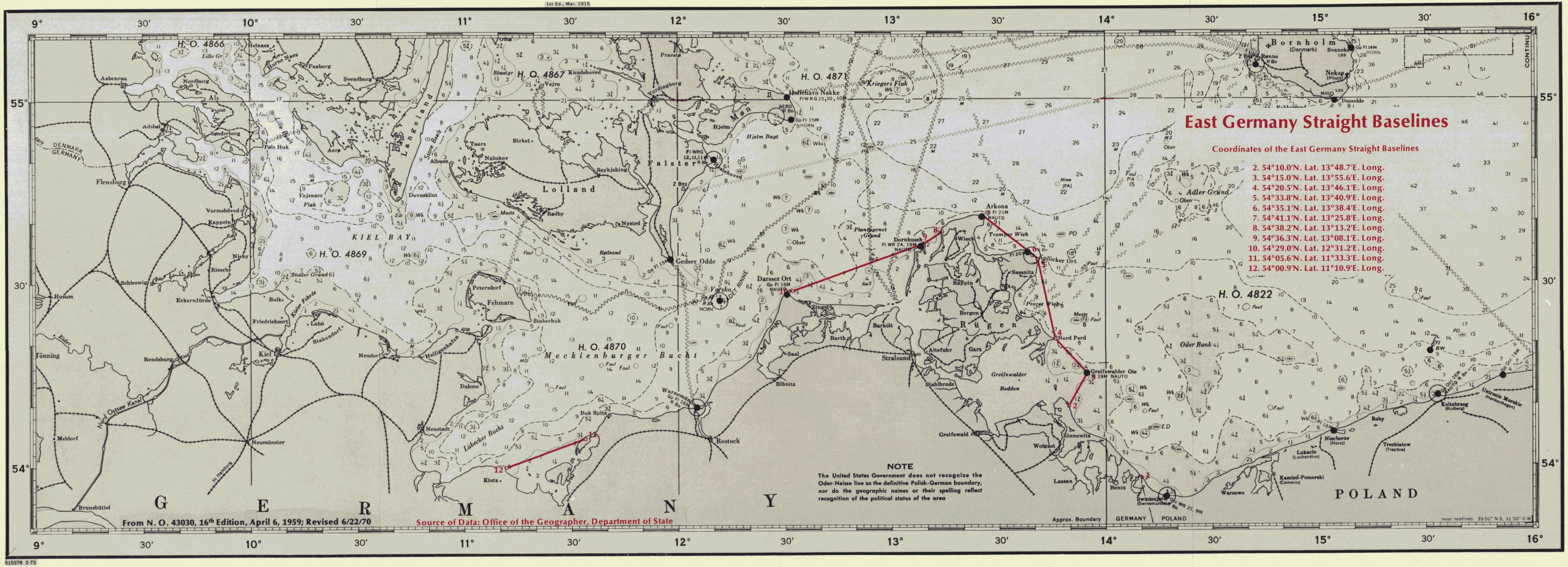
Line	Length	Comment
1-2	c.21 nm	Extends along the low-water line of the coast from the seaward terminus of the Polish boundary west of the Oder River mouth.
2-3	6.4 nm	Connects the headland of the Usedom peninsula with the small island of Greifswalder Oie east of the mouth of the Greifswalder Bodden, situated between the mainland and the island of Rugen.
3-4	7.8 nm	Joins the same small island to the island of Rugen at the headland of Nord-Perd. The two segments enclose the bay-like Bodden with little effect on the seaward limits of the territorial sea.
4-5	13.65 nm	Encloses a bay-like indentation, Prorer Wiek, which does not meet the semicircular test for juridical bays, on the island of Rugen.
5-6	2.1 nm	The low-water coastline forms the baseline.

Line	Length	Comment
6-7	9.3 nm	Encloses a bay-like indentation, Tromper Wiek, which does not meet the semicircular test for a juridical bay.
7-8	8.25 nm	Follows the low-water coastline.
8-9	3.4 nm	Joins cape Rehberg Ort on Rugen to the north cape of Hiddensee island which forms the western-most island of the Rugen group.
9-10	22.8 nm	Connects the previously described cape on Hiddensee with Cape Darsser Ort, enclosing a narrow bay-like body of water. The coastal area is backed by a series of large bodies of water tributary to the area enclosed. If considered as part of the "bay," the total area meets the semicircular test for a juridical bay.
10-11	approx. 55 nm	Follows low-water coastline of mainland in an area with no pronounced coastal indentations.
11-12	13.8 nm	Encloses a juridical bay--Wismar Bucht--from an artificially selected point on the eastern headland to the western headland.
12-13	approx. 11.5 nm	Follows the mainland low-water coastline to the limits of East and West Germany east of Travemunde.

SUMMARY

The East German baseline is formed by seven straight baseline segments with five intervening areas of low-water baseline. The straight baseline system constitutes approximately 43 percent of the total 175-mile baseline. The seven segments total 77.15 nautical miles. The longest line segment measures 22.8 nautical miles; the average is approximately 11 nautical miles.

The system joins the Rugen Insular System with the mainland of East Germany. While basically conservative in its conception, the system encloses several bodies of water which are not major indentations of the coast. They, in fact, do not meet the semicircular requirements of a bay. Nevertheless, the effect of these lines on the extension of the territorial sea is essentially minimal.


1st Ed., Mar. 1915
East Germany Straight Baselines
Coordinates of the East Germany Straight Baselines
2. 54°10.0′N. Lat. 13°48.7′E. Long.
3. 54°15.0′N. Lat. 13°55.6′E. Long.
4. 54°20.5′N. Lat. 13°46.1′E. Long.
5. 54°33.8′N. Lat. 13°40.9′E. Long.
6. 54°35.1′N. Lat. 13°38.4′E. Long.
7. 54°41.1′N. Lat. 13°25.8′E. Long.
8. 54°38.2′N. Lat. 13°13.2′E. Long.
9. 54°36.3′N. Lat. 13°08.1′E. Long.
10. 54°29.0′N. Lat. 12°31.2′E. Long.
11. 54°05.6′N. Lat. 11°33.3′E. Long.
12. 54°00.9′N. Lat. 11°10.9′E. Long.
NOTE
The United States Government does not recognize the Oder-Neisse line as the definitive Polish-German boundary, nor do the geographic names or their spelling reflect recognition of the political status of the area
H. O. 4866
H. O. 4867
H. O. 4871
H. O. 4869
H. O. 4870
H. O. 4822
KIEL BAY
Mecklenburger Bucht
Lolland
Falster
Langeland
Fehmarn
Rügen
Bornholm
(Denmark)
Adler Grund
Oder Bank
G E R M A N Y
POLAND
DENMARK
GERMANY
Flensburg
Kiel
Rendsburg
Neumünster
Rostock
Warnemünde
Stralsund
Greifswald
Wolgast
Arkona
Darsser Ort
Gedser Odde
Greifswalder Oie
Swinoujscie
(Swinemünde)
Kołobrzeg
(Kolberg)
Approx. Boundary
From N. O. 43030, 16th Edition, April 6, 1959; Revised 6/22/70
Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State
Inner neatlines: 39.50″ N-S, 31.50″ E-W
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