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

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 71

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:

FINLAND - SWEDEN

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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No. 71

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:

FINLAND-SWEDEN

June 16, 1976

Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Governments of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden signed a continental shelf boundary agreement on September 29, 1972. Notes of ratification were exchanged and the Agreement entered into force on January 15, 1973. Both countries are parties to the 1958 Geneva Continental Shelf Convention.

The Agreement between Finland and Sweden Regarding Delimitation of the Continental Shelf in Bottenviken,[1] Bottenhavet,[2] and Aland Sea, and the northernmost part of he Baltic Sea is as follows:

The Government of he Kingdom of Sweden and the Government of the Republic of Finland,

Having decided to fix the boundary line between the areas of the continental shelf in Bottenviken, Bottenhavet, the Aland Sea and the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea over which Sweden or Finland exercises sovereign rights with respect to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources,

Considering the Convention on the Continental Shelf concluded at Geneva in 1958, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The boundary line between the areas of the continental shelf over which Sweden or Finland exercises sovereign rights with respect to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources shall in principle be a median line between the baselines from which the breadth of the countries' territorial sea is measured. However, certain deviations from this principle have occurred in order to take into account, as special circumstances within the meaning of the Geneva Convention, the boundary lines fixed partly in 1811 in the topographical boundary delimitation made after the Peace of Fredrikshavn and partly by the Convention of October 20, 1921 regarding the non-fortification and neutralization of the Aland Islands. In order that the boundary line may have a practical and suitable extension it shall be made up of straight lines between the points defined in arts. 2-4.

Article 2

The northern starting point of the boundary line is the point where the outer boundary of Sweden's territorial sea meets the territorial boundary between Sweden and Finland. The point has the following coordinates: 65°31.8'N 24°08.4'E (point 1)

From this point the boundary line coincides with Finland's territorial boundary to the point where the outer boundary of Finland's territorial sea meets the territorial boundary. The points have the following coordinates: 65°30.9'N 24°08.2E (point 2)

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[1] Northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia.
[2] Southern part of the Gulf of Bothnia.

Article 3

From point 2 the boundary line is drawn through the following points:

63°40.0'N 21°30.0'E (point 3)
63°31.3'N 20°56.4'E (point 4)
63°29.1'N 20°41.8'E (point 5)
63°20.0'N 20°24.0'E (point 6)
62°42.0'N 19°31.5'E (point 7)
60°40.7'N 19°14.1'E (point 8)
60°22.5'N 19°09.5'E (point 9)
60°22.3'N 19°09.5'E (point 10)

Point 9 constitutes the point of intersection between the outer boundary of Sweden's territorial sea and the straight line between point 8 and Market (point 16 in the Aland Convention of 1921).

From point 9 to point 10 the boundary line coincides with Sweden's territorial boundary; Point 10 constitutes the point of intersection between the outer boundary of Finland's territorial sea and the straight line between point 8 and Market.

Article 4

South of point 10 the boundary line resumes at the point where Sweden's and Finland's territorial seas are no longer adjacent to each other. The point has the following coordinates: 60°14.2'N 19°06.0'E

From point 11 the boundary line coincides with Finland's territorial boundary up to a point with the following coordinates: 60°13.0'N 19°06.0'E (point 12)

From point 12 the boundary line is drawn through the following points:
60°11.5'N 19°05.2'E (point 13)
59°47.7'N 19°39.4'E (point 14)
59°47.5'N 19°39.7'E (point 15)
59°45.2"N 19°43.0'E (point 16)
59°26.7'N 20°09.4'E (point 17)

Between points 14, 15, and 16 the boundary line coincides with Finland's territorial boundary.

Article 5

Points 8, 13, 15, and 17 referred to in arts. 3-4 are identical with the points designated in the Aland Convention of 1921 as points 17, 15, 14, and 13, respectively.

Article 6

The positions of points 1-17 mentioned in arts. 2-4 are shown on the three Finnish nautical charts which are annexed, namely[1]: No. 3, scale 1:350,000, edition of 1969 II;

No. 5, scale 1: 350,000, edition of 1971 II;
No. 904, scale 1:200,000, edition of 1971 III.

All the coordinates mentioned in this Agreement coincide with the system of coordinates of these nautical charts.

Article 7

This Agreement shall be ratified. The Agreement shall enter into force when the two governments have notified each other by an exchange of notes in Helsinki that they have ratified it.[2]

Done in Stockholm on September 29, 1972, in duplicate, in the Swedish and Finnish languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

Ole Jodahl
(L.S.)
Max Jakobson
(L.S.)

PROTOCOL

In connection with the signing today of the Agreement between Sweden and Finland regarding delimitation of the continental shelf in Bottenviken, Bottenhavet, the Aland Sea, and the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea, the undersigned plenipotentiary representatives agreed that in case natural resources on the seabed or in its subsoil extend to both sides of the boundary line fixed in arts. 2-4 of the Agreement and the natural resources found in one State's area of the continental shelf can be extracted in whole or in part from the other State's area, the Contracting States will at the request of either State enter into negotiations on how to exploit these resources in the most efficient manner and how to divide the yield.

The representatives also agreed that negotiations regarding the farther extension of the boundary line in the Baltic Sea shall be inaugurated at a later date.

Stockholm, September 29, 1972.

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[1] These annexes have not been appended here.
[2] This exchange of notes took place in Helsinki on January 15, 1973.

Ole Jodahl

(L.S.)
Max Jackobson
(L.S.)

Printed June 15, 1973

ANALYSIS

The Finland-Sweden continental shelf agreement is plotted on the attached DMA/HC charts 44030 and 44180. The official Finnish nautical charts cited in Article 6 of the Agreement were used to compute the distances between the boundary points and Finnish straight baselines. Official Swedish charts Nos. 41, 42, 51, 53, and 71 (1:200,000) were used to measure distances to the Swedish baselines.

The shelf boundary extends for a distance of approximately 419.76 nautical miles and has 17 turning or terminal points. The boundary runs the entire length of the Gulf of Bothnia, through the narrow Aland Sea, and into the northernmost part of Baltic Sea.

As stated in Article 2 of the Agreement, the first point on the boundary is the intersection of Sweden's territorial sea limit (4 nautical miles) with the Finland-Sweden territorial sea lateral boundary. From point 1 to point 2 the shelf boundary coincides with the territorial sea boundary. At point 2 the outer limit of Finland's territorial sea (4 nautical miles) intersects the territorial sea and the shelf boundaries. Both states employ a straight baseline system when delimiting their territorial seas.[1]

The straight line connecting points 2 and 3 is 130.48 nautical miles in length and constitutes the longest single segment of the boundary. Point 9 represents the intersection of the outer limit of Sweden's territorial sea with the straight line between point 8 and the middle of Market. Sweden's 4-nautical-mile territorial sea is, at this point, measured from Market. The short boundary segment from point 9 to point 10 (0.20 nautical miles) coincides with Sweden's territorial sea.

Point 10, according to the Agreement, represents the intersection of Finland's territorial sea limit with the straight line between point 8 and Market. An interesting question arises with regard to Finland's territorial sea limit in the Aland Sea. According to Article II of the Convention on the Non-fortification and Neutralisation of the Aland Islands (signed at Geneva, October 20, 1921), "the territorial sea of the Aland Islands are considered to extend for a distance of three nautical miles from the low-water mark in the islands, islets, and reefs not permanently submerged." In Article 1 of Decree No. 643 of August 18, 1956, establishing Finland's straight baselines system, reference is made to the 1921

[1] Refer to Limits in the Seas N0s. 47 (Sweden) and 48 (Finland) for an analysis of their straight baseline systems.

Convention regarding the territorial sea limit in the Aland Sea. Yet, on the official Finnish charts Finland's territorial sea in this area is shown to be 4 nautical miles and not 3 nautical miles.

Article 5 of the Finland-Sweden Agreement states only that "points 8, 13, 15, and 17 referred in Articles 3-4 are identical with the points designated in the Aland Convention of 1921 as points 17, 15, 14, and 13, respectively" (emphasis added). Referring to International Legislation No. 54, p. 747, a slight discrepancy occurs between the above four points of the 1921 Aland Convention with the above four points of the Finland- Sweden Agreement. This discrepancy is probably a result of more accurate, modern surveys. The following is a comparison of the 1921 Convention points with the Finland-Sweden Agreement points.

1921 Convention	Finland-Sweden Agreement
Point	Point
17. 60°41.0'N 19°14.4'E	8. 60°40.7'N 19°14.1'E
15. 60°11.8'N 19°05.5'E	13. 60°11.5'N 19°05.2'E
14. 59°47.8'N 19°40.0'E	15. 59°47.5'N 19°39.7'E
13. 59°27.0'N 20°09.7'E	17. 59°26.7'N 20°09.4'E

Although Article 1 of the shelf agreement states that the boundary "shall in principle be a median line between the baselines," at no point is the boundary truly equidistant. For a boundary to meet this criterion the entire boundary must be equidistant from two points (one point on each coast or baseline) with the turning points equidistant from three points (two points on one baseline, one point on the other). On this shelf boundary the turning points are not even equidistant from two points.

This fact is recognized by both states. Special circumstances are cited in Article 1; these special circumstances consist of using boundary lines fixed partly in 1811 and partly in the 1921 Convention mentioned earlier. The Agreement also states that, "in order that the boundary line may have a practical and suitable extension it shall be made up of straight lines between points in Arts. 2-4."

The following table shows the distance from the respective baselines to the boundary and the distance between the boundary turning points.

FINLAND-SWEDEN CONTINENTAL SHELF

Boundary Point	Distance From Baseline to Boundary Point (n.m.)		Distance Between Points Points (n.m.)
	Finland	Sweden	
1.	4.43	4.00	
			0.91
2.	4.00	4.94	
			130.48
3.	13.23	14.74	
			17.36
4.	5.20	5.72	
			6.90
5.	4.47	4.29	
			12.14
6.	7.55	8.79	
			45.00
7.	36.72	29.01	
			121.93
8.	15.76	19.33	
			18.39
9.	4.09	4.00	
			0.20
10.	4.00	3.82*	
			8.26
11.	3.30**	4.45*	
			1.23
12.	4.00	5.52	
			1.56
13.	5.09	5.38	
			29.40
14.	4.00	6.72	
			0.25
15.	4.00	6.70	
			2.85
16.	4.00	6.69	
			22.89
17.	6.94	18.33	

* This distance is calculated from the boundary point to Market.
** Although boundary point 11 is 4.45 nautical miles from Market, the Finnish straight baseline is closer.

BALTIC SEA

GULF OF BOTHNIA

From Finnish and Swedish charts to 1952
SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
reduced approximately to Mean Sea Level
HEIGHTS IN FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

FINLAND-SWEDEN: Continental Shelf Boundary

○ Terminal or turning point

Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State
From N. O. 44030 2nd Ed., Sept. 1, 1969; Revised 1/18/73

NOTE
Boundaries as shown are approximate.

CAUTIONS

1. This chart is intended for offshore and approach navigation only. Notice to Mariners affecting detailed inshore information, including minor navigational aids, will no longer be issued for this chart. Refer to subsequent Notice to Mariners affecting the larger scale charts of inshore areas for all navigational changes that are published.
2. Only the principal or outer lights and buoys are shown on this chart. Larger scale charts and List of Lights, H.O. Pub. 116 should be consulted regarding light sectors, buoys and wrecks.
3. Buoys are not to be depended on (especially when ice begins to form) and are removed during the winter months.
4. It is necessary to be very careful when navigating in the locality of the Östra Kvarken and Västra Kvarken, particularly during foggy weather, which is not infrequent. Also bear in mind that the current is uncertain, and that its movement sometimes precedes the wind. In some areas the compass is affected by Magnetic Anomalies.
5. The coast of Finland is only partially surveyed and should be navigated with great caution.

COMPILATION DATA

Finnish Chart 3 ..... 1:350,000
Finnish Chart 5 ..... 1:350,000
Finnish Chart 903 ..... 1:200,000
Swedish Chart (Former) 304 ..... 1:200,000
Swedish Chart (Former) 305 ..... 1:200,000
Miscellaneous data

GLOSSARY

Älv	river
Bukten, Bukt	bay
Fjärd-en (Fj)	bay, cove, inlet, channel
Grund-en(Gr)-er	island, shoal, reef, rock
Hav	bay, gulf
Holm-en (Hl)	island
Jõki	river, stream
Kari	reef, shoal, rock
Klubb-en	island
Luoto	island, shoal
Niemi	cap, point, peninsula, island
Norr, Norra (N)	north
Ö, Ön	island, peninsula, rock
Öar-na	islands
Östra (O)	east
Saari	island
Selkä	bay, sound
Skären, Skär	island(s), rock(s), shoal
Sund (Sd), Sunder	sound, inlet
Udd, Udde, Uddar	cap, point, peninsula
Väst, Västra (V)	west
Vik-en	bay, gulf, inlet, channel

NOTE
The positions of the light ships are approximate.

SWEDEN

FINLAND

1 65°31.8'N 24°08.4'E
2 65°30.9'N 24°08.2'E
3 63°40.0'N 21°30.0'E
4 63°31.3'N 20°56.4'E
5 63°29.1'N 20°41.8'E
6 63°20.0'N 20°24.0'E
7 62°42.0'N 19°31.5'E
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10 60°22.3'N 19°09.5'E
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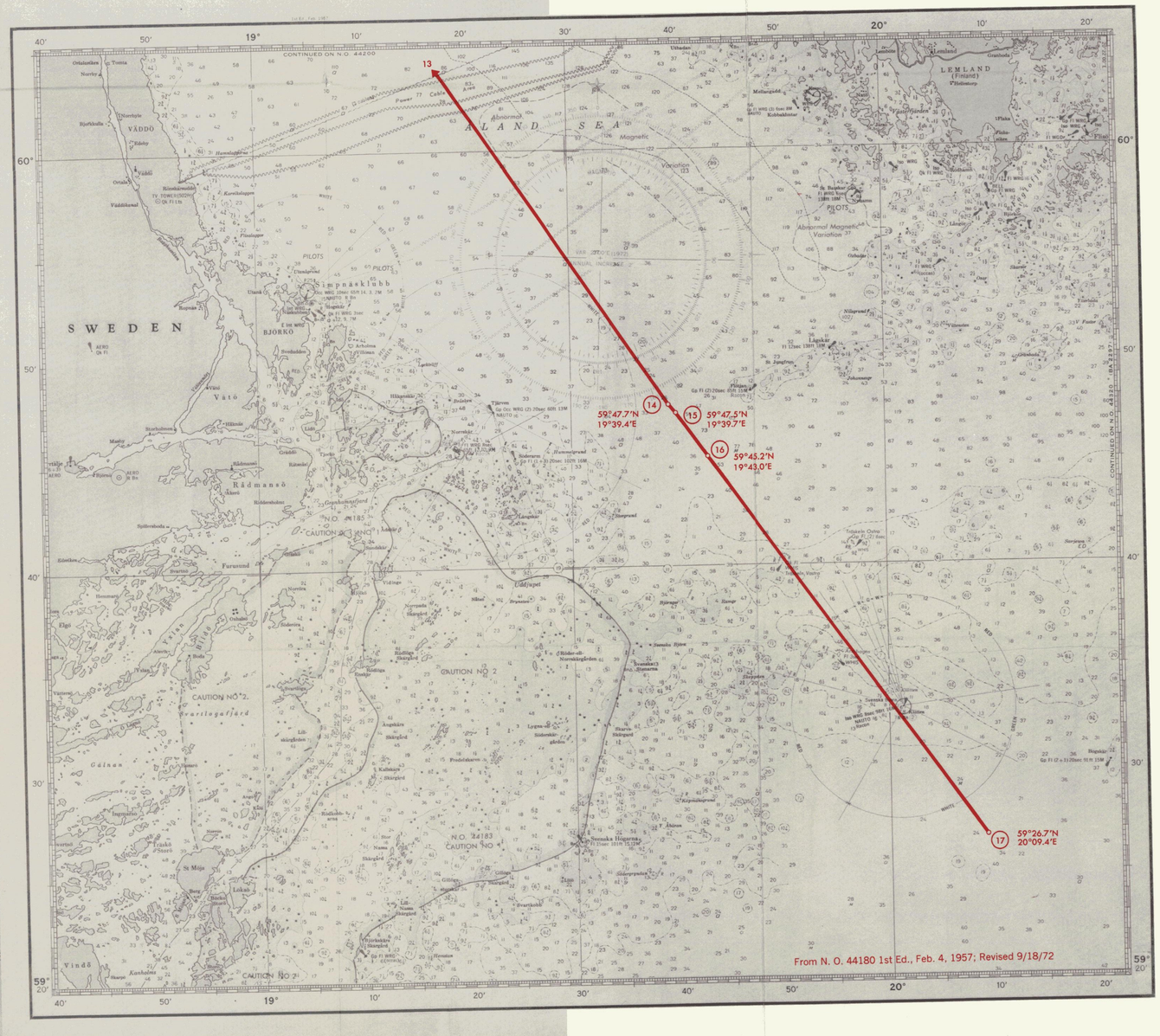
12 60°13.0'N 19°06.0'E
13 60°11.5'N 19°05.2'E
14
13
14 59°47.7'N 19°39.4'E
15 59°47.5'N 19°39.7'E
16 59°45.2'N 19°43.0'E
17 59°26.7'N 20°09.4'E

CONVERSION TABLE
FATHOMS TO METERS

Fathoms	Meters	Fathoms	Meters
1	0.5	8	14.6
2	0.9	9	15.1
3	1.4	10	15.5
4	1.8	11	16.0
5	2.3	12	16.5
6	2.7	13	17.3
7	3.2	14	17.8
8	3.7	15	18.3
9	4.1	16	18.7
10	4.6	17	19.2
11	5.0	18	19.6
12	5.5	19	20.1
13	5.9	20	21.9
14	6.4	21	23.8
15	6.9	22	25.6
16	7.3	23	27.4
17	7.8	24	29.3
18	8.2	25	31.1
19	8.7	26	32.9
20	9.1	27	34.7
21	9.6	28	36.6
22	10.1	29	54.9
23	10.5	30	73.2
24	11.0	40	91.4
25	11.4	50	109.7
26	11.9	60	128.0
27	12.3	70	146.3
28	12.8	80	164.6
29	13.2	90	182.9
30	13.7	100	
31	14.1		

Revised by DMA Hydrographic Center Depot Philadelphia

CONTINUED ON N.O. 44200

CONTINUED ON N.O. 48015

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