
Specific issues on which comments would be of particular interest to the Commission

Comments of the Republic of Croatia on the topic “Sea-level rise in relation to the law of the sea”

a) Examples of practice relating to the updating, and frequency of updating, national laws regarding baselines used for measuring the breadth of maritime zones; practice relating to the frequency of updating national maritime zone notifications deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

There are no examples of practice relating to the updating national laws in Croatia due to the sea-level rise.

b) Examples of practice relating to the updating, and frequency of updating, charts on which baselines and outer limits of the exclusive economic zone and of the continental shelf are drawn, as well as lists of geographical coordinates prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and/or national legislation, including those which are deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and given due publicity; examples of practice relating to updating, and frequency of updating, navigational charts, including for purposes of evidencing changes of the physical contours of the coastal areas.

There are no examples of practice relating to the of updating charts due to the sea-level rise.

c) Any examples of the taking into account or modification of maritime boundary treaties due to sea-level rise.

There are no examples of the taking into account or modification of maritime boundary treaties due to sea-level rise.

d) Information on the amount of actual and/or projected coastal regression due to sea-level rise, including possible impact on basepoints and baselines used to measure the territorial sea.

Analyzing the sea-level rise from tide gauge stations owned by the Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia (since 1955) there has been a noticeable trend of sea-level rise along the entire eastern Adriatic coast. This trend has been more expressed if we look at the sea-level rise measurements from those stations since 1991, it measures between 2 to 4 mm per year (depending on location). These results are in line with the estimated sea-level rise of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

e) Information on existing or projected activities related to coastal adaptation measures in relation to sea-level rise, including preservation of basepoints and baselines.

Sea-level rise has been one of the topics within the framework of consultations conducted between relevant ministries and bodies, however no concrete measures in relation to sea-level rise have been taken so far.