

Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
17 March – 26 April 1960

Annexes

Synoptical table concerning the breadth and juridical status of the territorial sea and adjacent zones

Extract from the Official Records of the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (Summary Records of Plenary Meetings and of Meetings of the Committee of the Whole, Annexes and Final Act)

ANNEXES

NOTE: For the pagination of these annexes, see entries in bold type in the *Index to documents of the Conference*, pp. x-xi of the present volume.

DOCUMENT A/CONF.19/4

Synoptical table concerning the breadth and juridical status of the territorial sea and adjacent zones

[Original text: English]

[8 February 1960]

1. During the first United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Secretariat prepared, at the request of the First Committee and in consultation with the delegations, a synoptical table concerning the breadth and juridical status of the territorial sea and adjacent zones of the States represented at the Conference.¹
2. During the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, in connexion with the discussion in the Sixth Committee on item 59 of the agenda, namely, "Question of convening a second United Nations conference on the law of the sea", the Secretariat, at the request of several delegations, made the synoptical table available to the Sixth Committee. Various delegations, in the course of that session, made known to the Secretariat their wish that the synoptical table should be brought up-to-date and then republished as a document for the second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Accordingly, by a note dated 13 March 1959, the Secretary-General informed all States invited to participate in the second Conference under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1307 (XIII) that the Secretariat was preparing a revised edition of the synoptical table for this purpose. He further requested that the States should transmit to him, by 1 November 1959, any data which it was desired should be included in order to amend or supplement the synoptical table, together with the relevant texts of the laws or regulations. The synoptical table was annexed to the note.
3. The present revised table, although based upon the original synoptical table prepared at the request of the First Committee during the first United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, incorporates all the changes that have been requested by the States concerned.
4. Some observations in connexion with the table appear necessary. Where a figure in miles or metres is given, followed by a year in parentheses and then a page reference, the year is that of the relevant law, regulation or decree, and the page reference is to the volume in the *United Nations Legislative Series* entitled *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*.² Where the page reference is preceded by the abbreviation *Suppl.*, this refers to the *Supplement*³ to the volumes in the *United Nations Legislative Series* entitled *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, volume I,⁴ *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, volume II,⁵ and *Laws Concerning the Nationality of Ships*.⁶ Where no page reference is given, this means that the figures are derived from information which was submitted by the States concerned either at the first United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, or in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly at its thirteenth session, or in response to the Secretary-General's note of 13 March 1959.
5. The texts of laws and regulations which were received in reply to the said note are reproduced in a separate document (A/CONF.19/5 and Add.1-3). When necessary, reference is made to these texts in the footnotes appended to the synoptical table.
6. A blank entry opposite the name of a State in the revised synoptical table signifies that the relevant information was not available to the Secretariat.

¹ See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. III, 14th meeting, paras. 1-29, and document A/CONF.13/C.1/L.11/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and 2.

² United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.V.2.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.V.2.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1951.V.2.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1952.V.1.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.V.1.

State	Breadth of territorial sea	Continental shelf	Limits for special purposes						
			Customs	Security	Criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction	Fishing	Neutrality	Sanitary regulations
Albania	10 miles (1952)								
Argentina	3 miles (1869)	(1946) Including sovereignty over superjacent waters	12 miles (1869)	12 miles (1869)	5 miles (1889)	3 miles (1869)	10 miles (1907)	3 miles (1869)	12 miles (1869)
Australia	3 miles (1878)	(1953) Not affecting superjacent waters <i>Suppl.</i> p. 3 Pearl Fisheries Act (1952-53) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 4	3 miles (1901-1954) p. 63		3 miles (1878) pp. 319, 355	3 miles (1912-1953) p. 63			
Belgium	3 miles (1929) p. 74		10 km. (1852)				3 miles (1891) p. 441	3 miles (1939) p. 615	
Brazil	3 miles (1950) p. 2	(1950) Not affecting navigation or fishing rights					12 miles (1938) p. 444	3 miles (1914) p. 2	
Bulgaria	12 miles (1951) p. 80								
Burma									
Cambodia	5 miles ^a (1957)	(1957) 50 metres. Including sovereignty over superjacent waters	12 miles (1957)	12 miles (1957)			12 miles (1957)		
Canada	3 miles		12 miles ^b (1952) p. 95		3 miles (1954) p. 322	3 miles (1934) p. 92	12 miles (1952) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 22		
Ceylon	6 miles ^c (1957)	^d	2 leagues from coast ^e	Territorial waters	^f	^g	^h	Territorial waters	Territorial waters
Chile	50 km. (1941) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 23	(1947) 200 miles. Including sovereignty over superjacent waters, pp. 4-5	100 km. (1948)	100 km. (1941) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 23					
China	3 miles (1930) (Codification Conference)		12 miles (1934) p. 113						
Colombia	6 miles (1930)		20 km. (1931) p. 115				12 miles (1923) p. 5		12 miles (1923) Pollution of sea
Costa Rica	In accordance with international law	(1949) ¹ 200 miles incl. sovereignty over the superia-					200 miles (1939)		

								of sea
Denmark	3 miles		4 miles (1928) p. 121			3 miles (1951) p. 474		
Greenland						3 miles (1953) p. 476		
Faroe Islands						Special limit (1959) ^j		
Dominican Republic	3 miles (1952) p. 11		15 miles (1952) ^k p. 11			15 miles (1952) ^k p. 11		15 miles (1952) ^k p. 11
Ecuador	12 miles	To a depth of 200 metres (1950)				1		
El Salvador	200 miles (1950) p. 14	200 miles (1950) including sovereignty over superjacent waters, p. 14				200 miles (1955) p. 490		
Ethiopia	12 miles (1953) p. 129					12 miles (1953) p. 130		
Federation of Malaya	3 miles							
Finland	4 miles ^m (1956) p. 805		6 miles (1939) p. 14					
France	3 miles (1888) p. 497		20 km. (1948) p. 135	3-6 miles (1934)		3 miles (1888) p. 497	6 miles (1912)	
Germany, Federal Republic of	In accordance with international law (1956), p. 17		3 miles (1939) p. 139					
Greece	6 miles (1936)			10 miles (1913)			6 miles (1914)	
Guatemala	12 miles (1934)	(1956) Not affecting free maritime and air navigation	12 miles (1934/39) p. 141				12 miles (1940) p. 379	
Honduras	(1957) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 10 ⁿ	(1957) 200 metres or to where depth admits of exploitation. Sea-bed and subsoil only. <i>Suppl.</i> p. 10	6 miles (1925) p. 146			n		
Iceland		(1948) Relates to fisheries only. p. 513	4 miles (1935) p. 146			12 miles ^o (1958) <i>Suppl.</i> p. 11		

State	Breadth of territorial sea	Continental shelf	Limits for special purposes							
			Customs	Security	Criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction	Fishing	Neutrality	Sanitary regulations	
India	6 miles (1956) p. 23	(1955). Sea-bed and subsoil only. <i>Suppl.</i> pp. 13-14	12 miles (1956) ^p					100 miles (1956) ^q		12 miles (1956) ^p
Indonesia	12 miles (1957) ^r									
Iran	12 miles (1959) ^s	(1955). Sea-bed and subsoil only. p. 25								
Iraq	In accordance with international law (1956), p. 26									
Ireland	3 miles (1959) ^t							t		
Israel	6 miles (1956) p. 26	(1952). Not affecting superjacent waters. <i>Suppl.</i> p. 14.			6 miles (1955) pp. 26, 340-2			6 miles (1937) pp. 26, 518		
Italy	6 miles (1942) p. 162		12 miles (1940) p. 172	10 miles (1912; in time of peace)				6 miles (1942) pp. 162, 165		
Japan	3 miles (1870)								3 miles (1870) p. 29	
Jordan	3 miles (1943) p. 522							3 miles (1943) p. 522		
Korea, Republic of		(1952). Including sovereignty over superjacent waters. ^u p. 30						20-200 miles (1952-1954) pp. 30, 523		
Lebanon			20 km. (1954) p. 177		20 km. (1943) p. 344			6 miles (1921) p. 524		
Liberia	3 miles (for all purposes)									
Libya	12 miles (1954)									
Mexico	9 miles ^v (1935-1941)	(1945). Not affecting right of free navigation. ^w						See under continental shelf		
Monaco	According to in-		20 ^{km}							

Netherlands	3 miles (1889) p. 531					p. 528 3 miles (1952) p. 533	3 miles (1939) p. 647	
New Zealand	In accordance with international law		In accordance with interna- tional law (1913)		In accordance with interna- tional law (1953) p. 346	3 miles (1908) p. 540 (1935) (1934) p. 597		3 miles (1956)
Nicaragua		(1950). Including sovereignty over the superjacent waters, p. 35						
Norway	4 miles ^x (1812)		10 miles (1932) p. 35			4 miles (1906) p. 549	4 miles ^v	
Pakistan	3 miles (1878) p. 38 ^z	Sea-bed along the coast ex- tending to 100 fathom con- tour into the open sea (1950), p. 38			3 miles (1878) p. 38 ^z	Sea within a distance of 1 marine league of seacoast (1897) p. 38		
Panama	12 miles (1958) ^{aa}	(1946). Including sovereignty over the superjacent wa- ters ^{bb}				(1946) Extends over area of sea above con- tinental shelf ^{cc}		
Peru		(1947). 200 miles including sovereignty over the super- jacent waters, p. 38				(1947) 200 miles p. 38		
Philippines ^{dd}								
Poland	3 miles (1932) p. 40		6 miles (1933) p. 40	6 miles (1932)				
Portugal		(1956) 200 metres. Seabed and subsoil only, not affecting superjacent waters. <i>Suppl.</i> p. 16	6 miles (1885) p. 811			Reciprocity (1917) p. 810		6 miles (1928) Pollution by oil
Romania	12 miles (1951) ^{ee} p. 238							

State	Breadth of territorial sea	Continental shelf	Limits for special purposes						
			Customs	Security	Criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction	Fishing	Neutrality	Sanitary regulations
Saudi Arabia	12 miles (1958) Suppl. p. 29		18 miles (1958) Suppl. p. 29	18 miles (1958) Suppl. p. 29					18 miles (1958) Suppl. p. 29
Spain	6 miles (1957) Suppl. p. 30		6 miles (1948) Suppl. p. 30				6 miles (1909/1933) Suppl. p. 30		
Sweden	4 miles (since 1779) p. 655, footnote 2		4 miles (1927) p. 246					4 miles (1938) p. 655	
Thailand	6 miles (1958)						12 miles (1958)		
Tunisia	3 miles (1951)						50 metres of depth of water (1951)		
Turkey									
Union of South Africa	3 miles (1935) p. 42		3 miles (1955) p. 254				3 miles (1955) p. 571		3 miles (1919) p. 253
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	12 miles (1909) ^{tt}								
United Arab Republic	12 miles (1958)								
United Kingdom	3 miles (1878) p. 355		3 miles (1952) p. 288		3 miles (1878) p. 355		3 miles (1933) p. 596		
Arab States under protection		(1949) Seabed and subsoil only. Not affecting superjacent waters ^{hh}							
Bahamas		(1948) Ditto, "ii							
B. Guiana		(1954) Ditto, p. 48							
B. Honduras		(1950) Ditto, p. 48							
Brunei		(1954) Ditto, p. 48							
Falkland Isles ^{jj}		(1950) Ditto, p. 49							
Jamaica		(1948) Ditto, p. 48							
North Borneo		(1954) Ditto, p. 48							
Sarawak		(1954) Ditto, p. 48							
United States of America	3 miles (1953) p. 54	(1945). Seabed and subsoil only. Not affecting superjacent waters ^{kk}	12 miles (1930) p. 30 ^q						3 miles (1924) Pollution F

Venezuela	(Codification Conference) 12 miles (1956) ^{mm nn}	(1956). Seabed and subsoil only. 200 metres or beyond that when depth of superjacent waters admits of exploitation of resources ^{mm}	15 miles (1956) ^{mm}	15 miles (1956) ^{mm}	(1956) Right to establish non-exclusive conservation zones ^{mm}	15 miles (1956) ^{mm}
Viet-Nam, Republic of					20 km. (1936)	
Yemen						
Yugoslavia	6 miles (1948) p. 314		6 miles (1949) p. 317		10 miles (1950) ^{oo} p. 613	

^a Measured from straight baselines.

^b Nine marine miles beyond Canadian waters.

^c Measured from the appropriate baseline. See Proclamation of the Governor-General, 20 December 1957 (A/CONF.19/5, under Ceylon).

^d Exclusive sovereign rights over the sea-bed and subsoil of the continental or insular shelf adjoining the territory and beyond the territorial waters of Ceylon. The right to establish conservation zones in that part of the Indian Ocean known as the Wadge Bank and in such areas of the high seas adjacent to the territorial waters of Ceylon as are within a distance of 100 nautical miles from the outer limits of those waters. See Proclamation of the Governor-General, 20 December 1957 (A/CONF.19/5, under Ceylon).

^e Section 65 of the Customs Ordinance of 1870, as amended (*Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*, p. 104). These provisions had been made prior to the Proclamation of 20 December 1957 extending the limits of the territorial waters (A/CONF.19/5, under Ceylon).

^f Generally within territorial limits—i.e., up to the limits of the territorial waters. Extraterritorial jurisdiction exists in the following cases: (a) In regard to offences under the Pearl Fisheries Ordinance where the Ceylonese courts have jurisdiction in regard to offences committed over the pearl banks delineated in the plan set out in the first schedule to the said Ordinance (*Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*, p. 459); (b) In regard to offences under the Chanks Ordinance where the Ceylonese courts have jurisdiction in regard to offences committed in and over the limits set out in schedule B to the said ordinance (*Ibid.*, p. 456); (c) The Ceylonese courts have jurisdiction in respect of certain offences like treason, robbery, murder, conspiracy committed on the high seas falling within Admiralty jurisdiction (section 136 of the Criminal Procedure Code) (*Ibid.*, p. 328); (d) Customs.

^g Territorial limits. But the Supreme Court has jurisdiction as extensive as the Admiralty jurisdiction of the High Court of England under the Ceylon Courts of Admiralty Ordinance (*Ibid.*).

^h (a) Territorial Waters. Section 27 of the Fisheries Ordinance No. 24 of 1940, as amended (*Ibid.*, p. 454); (b) In regard to pearl fisheries, the Ceylon pearl banks as delineated in the plan set out in the first schedule to the Pearl Fisheries Ordinance (*Ibid.*, p. 459); (c) In regard to the collection of Chanks béche-de-mer, coral and shells, the limits set out in schedule B to the Chanks Ordinance, amended by Act No. 12 of 1948 and Chank Fisheries Act No. 8 of 1953 (*Ibid.*, p. 456); (d) Whaling Ordinance No. 2 of 1936 (*Ibid.*, p. 458); (e) Proclamation by the Governor-General of 20 December 1957 declaring

rights to establish conservation zones to regulate fishing in the Wadge Bank and in the seas within 100 miles (A/CONF.19/5, under Ceylon).

ⁱ *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, vol. I, p. 9.

^j See Order No. 130 of 27 April 1950 (A/CONF.19/5, under Denmark).

^k Twelve nautical miles measured from the outer limit of the territorial sea.

^l "The Government of Ecuador has proclaimed its paramount right to priority over all others in the exploitation of the resources of the sea near its coasts, as well as its special right, inherent in its geographical position, to conserve and protect the living resources of the sea."

^m Measured from straight baselines drawn between points not more than 8 miles apart.

ⁿ The Decree of 19 December 1957, article 6, does not specify any limit, but reserves the right to determine such limits in the future.

^o Measured from straight baselines drawn between defined points.

^p See Presidential Proclamation of 3 December 1956 (A/CONF.19/5, under India (b)).

^q The Proclamation of 29 November 1956 gives the Government power to establish conservation zones within a distance of 100 nautical miles from the outer limits of territorial waters (A/CONF.19/5, under India (a)).

^r Measured from straight baselines drawn between the outermost points of the outermost islands or parts of islands comprising the Indonesian Archipelago.

^s See Act of 12 April 1959 (A/CONF.19/5, under Iran).

^t See Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959, and Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1959 (Straight Baselines) Order, 1959 (A/CONF.19/5, under Ireland).

^u The Presidential Proclamation of 18 January 1952 provides that the "declaration of sovereignty over the adjacent seas does not interfere with the rights of free navigation on the high seas".

^v See *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*, addendum (ST/LEG/SER.B/6/Add.1).

^w *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, vol. I, p.13.

^x See Royal Decree of 22 February 1812 (A/CONF.19/5, under Norway). For the system of measurement see Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries Case, *I.C.J. Reports (1951)*, p. 116.

^y During the two world wars, for practical reasons, 3 miles.

^z Under the Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act, 1878, s.7. This is an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom in force in Pakistan. For text see *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*, p. 355.

^{aa} See Act No. 58 of 18 December 1958 (A/CONF.19/5, under Panama).

^{bb} *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, vol. I, p. 15.

^{cc} *Ibid.*, p. 16.

^{dd} The position of the Philippines is given in *Yearbook of the International Law Commission, 1956*, vol. II (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.V.3, vol. II), pp. 69-70.

^{ee} The Romanian People's Republic established the breadth of its territorial sea at 12 miles by Decree No. 176 of September 29 1951. This breadth was maintained in Decree No. 39 of 28 January 1956, published in *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea*, p. 238.

^{ff} Law on the Extension of the Maritime Customs Zone, 10 December 1909 (see A/CONF.19/5, under USSR).

^{gg} The legislation of the United Kingdom assumes, rather than specifically states, that the breadth is, in accordance with that State's view of international law, fixed at 3 miles.

^{hh} *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, vol. I, pp. 23-29.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*, p. 31.

^{jj} By letter dated 22 December 1959, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations expressed the formal reservations of the Argentine Government with regard to the reference herein to the Falkland Isles as belonging to the United Kingdom. Referring to the islands in question as the "Malvinas Islands", the Argentine Government reaffirmed its claim to sovereignty over them.

^{kk} By accompanying press release stated to be limited to the 100 fathom line (*Department of State Bulletin*, vol. 12 (1945), p. 484).

^{ll} *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, vol. I, p. 130.

^{mm} See Act of 27 July 1956 concerning the territorial sea, continental shelf, fishery protection and air-space (A/CONF.19/5, under Venezuela).

ⁿⁿ The territorial sea is measured from straight baselines to be specified by decree, with due respect for existing treaties.

^{oo} Four nautical miles measured from the outer edge of the territorial waters.