

**Law No. 71-1060 of 14 December 1971**  
**regarding the delimitation of French territorial waters**

**Article 1**

The territorial waters of France extend up to a limit of 12 nautical miles from the baselines.

The baselines are the low-water mark as well as straight baselines and closing lines of bays as determined by decree.

The sovereignty of the French State extends to the airspace as well as to the seabed and subsoil thereof within the limits of its territorial waters.

**Article 2**

Except where otherwise provided, the breadth of the territorial sea shall not extend beyond a median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines of the French coasts and the coasts of the foreign countries opposite or adjacent to the French coasts.

**Article 3**

Where the distance between the baselines of the French coast and those of the coast of a foreign State opposite to the French coast is equal to or less than 24 miles or where such distance no longer permits the existence of an area in the high seas that is sufficiently large for the purpose of navigation, arrangements may be made to ensure unimpeded maritime and aerial navigation, in compliance with international agreements and, where necessary, by agreement between the States concerned.

**Article 4**

The provisions of this Act shall be without prejudice to the exercise of fishing rights granted to certain foreign ships under international agreements and French law.

**Article 5**

This Act shall be applicable in the overseas territories of France.