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I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY

4049

Royal Decree No. 236/2013, of 5 April 2013, establishing the Exclusive Economic Zone of Spain in the Northwest Mediterranean

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), of 10 December 1982, defines the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), establishes the rights and duties of the coastal State and of third States regarding the Zone, and specifies how it is to be delimited.

Articles 55 and 57 state that “The exclusive economic zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea”, which “shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured”. In the case of countries with opposite or adjacent coasts, article 74.1, states that the delimitation of the zone “shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution”.

As regards the rights of the coastal State, article 56.1 of the Convention establishes that it has “(a) sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds; (b) jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention with regard to: (i) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures; (ii) marine scientific research; (iii) the protection and preservation of the marine environment; (c) other rights and duties provided for in this Convention”.

Although it predates Spain's accession to the UNCLOS, Act 15/1978, of 20 February, regulating the Economic Zone of the Sea and its Beaches, regulates said zone in terms that are fully consistent with the Convention because it reflects the customary international law existing at the time of its promulgation. Its sphere of application is in principle limited, as noted in Final Provision One, to "the Atlantic coasts of Spain, both of the mainland and of the islands, including the coasts on the Cantabrian Sea". However, the Act "empowers the Government to extend these provisions to other coasts of Spain".

Accordingly, in exercise of the option allowed to the Government by Act 15/1978, of 20 February, in view of the growing importance of exploitation of the resources existing in the EEZ in the Mediterranean, and for the purposes set forth in the UNCLOS, namely to allow the coastal State to exercise its sovereign rights, Spain is establishing its own EEZ in the Northwest Mediterranean, without prejudice to its extension in future to other Spanish coasts.

Wherefore, on the joint proposal of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; of Defence; of Industry, Energy and Tourism; of Agriculture, Food and the Environment; and of the Economy and Competitiveness; and following deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of 5 April 2013,

I HEREBY DECREE:

Article 1. *Establishment of an Exclusive Economic Zone of Spain in the Northwest Mediterranean Sea*

An Exclusive Economic Zone of Spain is hereby established in the Northwest Mediterranean, starting from the outer limit of the territorial sea, up to coordinate point Lat. 35° 57.46' North; Long. 2° 5.31' West (WGS84 datum), bearing 173° (S007 E) from Cabo de Gata, at a distance of 46 nautical miles from the above-mentioned coordinate point, and continuing eastward to the equidistant line between the coastal States, drawn in conformity with international law, up to the maritime boundary with France, as detailed in the table below.

DATUM WGS 84

Point	Latitude			Longitude		
	Degrees	Minutes		Degrees	Minutes	-
1	36	31.21	N	2	9.67	W
2	35	57.46	N	2	5.31	W
3	36	3.06	N	1	54.90	W
4	36	16.55	N	1	33.40	W
5	36	22.37	N	1	23.33	W
6	36	30.17	N	1	8.33	W
7	36	34.96	N	0	59.73	W
8	36	41.09	N	0	52.81	W
9	36	41.61	N	0	51.12	W
10	36	45.33	N	0	32.57	W
11	36	46.90	N	0	26.82	W
12	36	50.81	N	0	17.82	W
13	36	55.30	N	0	8.54	W
14	36	57.55	N	0	3.90	W
15	37	2.63	N	0	5.09	E
16	37	10.28	N	0	17.31	E
17	37	21.86	N	0	31.16	E
18	37	35.84	N	0	46.02	E
19	37	36.48	N	0	47.06	E
20	37	36.06	N	0	57.62	E
21	37	35.82	N	1	28.79	E
22	37	36.69	N	1	36.06	E
23	37	38.10	N	1	52.18	E
24	37	40.12	N	2	2.40	E
25	37	42.23	N	2	11.05	E
26	37	58.19	N	2	46.00	E
27	37	58.78	N	3	10.60	E
28	37	59.21	N	3	13.17	E
29	38	0.71	N	3	22.19	E
30	38	12.40	N	4	6.93	E
31	38	17.65	N	4	22.06	E
32	38	21.81	N	4	35.07	E
33	38	22.59	N	4	49.29	E
34	38	25.53	N	5	18.34	E
35	38	37.39	N	5	44.06	E
36	38	46.85	N	6	3.37	E
37	38	57.03	N	6	6.29	E
38	39	37.49	N	6	18.00	E
39	40	1.63	N	6	18.00	E
40	40	36.24	N	6	7.63	E
41	41	9.42	N	5	56.61	E
42	41	14.85	N	5	53.23	E
43	41	25.51	N	5	25.89	E

44	41	27.35	N	5	20.17	E
45	41	40.26	N	5	10.54	E
46	41	50.55	N	5	2.39	E
47	41	51.53	N	5	1.31	E
48	42	30.00	N	4	29.25	E
49	42	31.67	N	4	27.22	E
50	42	42.68	N	4	10.00	E
51	42	44.90	N	3	49.73	E
52	42	35.15	N	3	32.14	E
53	42	32.65	N	3	28.71	E
54	42	31.65	N	3	25.88	E

Article 2. Modification of the Zone established in the preceding Article

The limits specified in the preceding Article may, if necessary, be modified in the light of any delimitation agreements to be concluded with the affected coastal State, under article 74 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 10 December 1982.

Final Provision. Entry into force

The present Royal Decree shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official State Gazette.

Done in Madrid, on 5 April 2013.

JUAN CARLOS R.

SORAYA SÁENZ DE SANTAMARÍA ANTÓN

Vice-President of the Government, Minister of the Presidency