

**Royal Decree concerning the territorial sea, continental shelf
and exclusive economic zone, 10 February 1981**

[Original: English]

The territorial sea

Article 1

The Sultanate of Oman exercises full sovereignty over the territorial sea of the Sultanate and over the airspace, and the sea-bed and the subsoil beneath the territorial sea of the Sultanate, in harmony with the principle of innocent passage of ships and planes of other States through international straits, and laws and regulations of the Sultanate relating thereto.

Article 2

The territorial sea of the Sultanate extends 12 nautical miles (22,224 meters) seaward, measured according to the following standards and regulations set forth:

- (a) The outer limit of the territorial sea is the line every point of which is at a distance of 12 nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline;
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Decree, the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low water line along the coast of the mainland or of islands and rocks;
- (c) The Government of the Sultanate of Oman will be issuing a directive in which the application of the system of straight baselines will be set forth and which will, in accordance thereof, determine the baselines for any part of the coast of the Sultanate of Oman, so also the lines relating to the closed waters lying within gulfs and bays or in between islands and the mainland coast. Any line described therein will be regarded as the baseline. Provided it is so required the Government of the Sultanate of Oman may amend or revoke any provisions which will be promulgated under this clause.

Internal waters

Article 3

The internal waters of the Sultanate of Oman shall include the waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea. The Omani laws which are applicable to national ports, roadsteads and bays shall, ipso facto, be applicable to internal waters also.

The exclusive economic zone

Article 4

The Sultanate of Oman exercises sovereign rights over the exclusive economic zone for the purposes of exploring, developing and exploiting its natural wealth, whether living or non-living.

Article 5

The exclusive economic zone extends 200 nautical miles and is measured from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The continental shelf

Article 6

The Sultanate of Oman exercises sovereign rights over its continental shelf for the purposes of exploring and exploiting its natural resources.

Article 7

The Sultanate of Oman will be issuing a declaration for delimiting the span of its continental shelf.

Miscellaneous provisions

Article 8

Where the coast of another State is opposite or adjacent to the coast of the Sultanate of Oman, the outer limits of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf shall be [measured up to] the median line [so that] every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the Sultanate and the territorial sea of such other States is measured.

Article 9

The precise limits of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf shall be determined by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on maps and hydrographic charts and geodetic data.

Article 10

The provisions of the Royal Decree dated 20 July 1972 concerning the territorial sea, the continental shelf and exclusive fishing zone and those of the Royal Decree numbering 44/77 of 15 June 1977 and all other provisions which are in contravention to the provisions of the present Decree stand cancelled.

Article 11

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force from the date of its issue.

