

**Chapter 1 of Title 18 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated),
as amended by Public Law No. 19-172 on April 28, 2017:**

**Chapter 1: Territorial Boundaries
and Economic Zones**

Section 101. Baseline system defined.

(1) A baseline is a continuous line which encircles an island or an atoll. The baseline from which the zones designated in this Chapter are to be measured as follows:

(a) The baseline of an island or portion of an island lacking a barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is the low-water line of the island drawn by reference to lists of geographical coordinates expressed in terms of the geodetic datum or as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(b) The baseline of an atoll or island or portion of an island having a barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is a line following the contour of the seaward edge of the reef system, which line connects those outermost elevations of the reef which are above water at low-water drawn by reference to lists of geographical coordinates expressed in terms of the geodetic datum or as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(c) Where there are breaks in reefs, entrances to lagoons, river mouths or bays, the President may make regulations declaring the geographic coordinates of the natural entrance points of low water between closing lines are drawn.

(2) Baselines may be comprised of straight archipelagic baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago.

(3) The baselines from which the breadth of the Territorial Sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of the Federated States of Micronesia are those defined and described in Schedule 1 and include points between which archipelagic baselines or closing baselines are drawn. The President shall officially declare the incorporation of Schedule 1 to this section, and he may, from time to time, by executive proclamation, provide update on any of the contents of Schedule 1.

(4) A baseline established or recognized under this title may be used to generate the zones of the Federated States of Micronesia and may be used to establish the outer limit of continental shelf or as a constraint line of any extension thereof.

Section 102. Territorial Sea and internal waters - Defined.

(1) There is hereby established a Territorial Sea of 12 nautical miles (M) breadth. The inner boundary of the Territorial Sea of each island or atoll is the baseline as defined in Section 101 of this Title. The outer boundary is a line, every point of which is 12 M seaward of the nearest point of the baseline.

(2) Waters landward of the baseline, including the lagoons of atolls or islands, are internal waters.

Section 103. Territorial Sea, archipelagic waters, and internal waters - Sovereignty.

The sovereignty of the Federated States of Micronesia extends to its internal waters, archipelagic waters, and Territorial Sea, including sovereign rights over the living and nonliving resources in the Territorial Sea and internal waters and in the airspace above the Territorial Sea, archipelagic waters, and internal waters as well as the seabed and subsoil.

Section 104. Exclusive economic zone - Defined.

There is hereby established an exclusive economic zone contiguous to the Territorial Sea. The inner boundary of the exclusive economic zone of each island or atoll is the seaward boundary of the Territorial Sea, and the outer boundary is a line, every point of which is not more than 200 M seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in section 101 of this Title.

Section 105. Exclusive economic zone - Regulation.

Within the exclusive economic zone, the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia shall have:

(1) Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or nonliving, 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;

(2) Jurisdiction with regard to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations, and structures; marine scientific research; and the protection and preservation of the marine environment; and

(3) Other rights and duties provided for in international law.

Section 105A. Contiguous Zone.

(1) There is hereby established a Contiguous Zone, comprising those areas of the sea that are beyond and adjacent to the Territorial Sea. The inner boundary of the contiguous zone is the seaward boundary of the Territorial Sea. The outer boundary of the Contiguous Zone is a line, every point of which is not more than 24 M seaward of the nearest point of the baseline as defined in section 101 of this title.

(2) The President may, from time to time, by Proclamation, declare the limits of the whole or of any part of the contiguous zone of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(3) Within the Contiguous Zone, the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia may exercise the control necessary to:

(a) prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within the territory of the Federated States of Micronesia or the Territorial Sea; and

(b) punish infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations committed within the territory of the Federated States of Micronesia or the territorial sea.

Section 105B. Continental Shelf.

(1) There is hereby established a Continental Shelf comprising of the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond the Territorial Sea throughout the natural prolongation of the land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the Territorial Sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section and any relevant international agreement to which the Federated States of Micronesia is a party:

(a) the inner boundary of the Continental Shelf is the seaward boundary of the Territorial Sea; and

(b) the outer boundary of the Continental Shelf is a line, every point of which is not more than 200 M seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in section 101 of this title.

(3) Where the continental shelf is beyond 200 M, it shall not extend more than 350 M from any of the baselines recognized under Schedule 1 from which the breadth of the Territorial Sea is measured.

Section 105C. Extension of Continental Shelf.

Whenever the continental margin extends beyond 200 M from the baselines as defined in section 101, the outer limits of the continental shelf are to be established in accordance with Article 76 of the Convention.

Section 105D. Rights and jurisdiction over the Continental Shelf.

Within the Continental Shelf, the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia shall have:

(a) sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring the continental shelf and exploiting its natural resources,

(b) exclusive rights to authorize and regulate drilling on the continental shelf for all purposes,

(c) exclusive rights to construct, authorize and regulate the construction, operation and use of artificial islands, installations and structures,

(d) jurisdiction with respect to protection and preservation of the marine environment, and

(e) the right to regulate, authorize and conduct marine scientific research.

Section 106. Submerged reefs.

Traditionally recognized fishing rights in submerged reef areas wherever located within the fishery zones of Micronesia shall be preserve and respected.

Section 107. Regulations.

The President of the Federated States of Micronesia may issue such regulations as are necessary to establish the baselines, the boundaries of internal waters, the archipelagic waters, the Territorial Sea, the exclusive economic zone, the Contiguous Zone, and the Continental Shelf.

Section 107A. Production of charts.

The President may cause to be prepared such charts as he deems fit showing the baselines or the zones, or any matter relating thereto. Such charts when certified by the President or his designee constitute a prima facie evidence of any matter shown thereon.

Section 108. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter:

(1) “Archipelago” means a group of islands, including parts of islands, interconnecting waters and other natural features which are so closely interrelated that such islands, waters and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity, or which historically have been regarded as such.

(2) “Atoll” means a naturally formed reef system which has one or more islands situated on the reef system, including Ngulu, Ulithi, Sorol, Eauripik, Woleai, Faraulep, Ifalik, Olimarao, Elato, Lamotrek, West Fayu, Puluwat, Pulap, Pulusuk, Namonuito, Kuop, Nomowin, Murilo, Losap, Namoluk, Satawan, Etal, Lukunor, Minto Reef, Oroluk, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi, Pakin, Ant, Sapwuafik, Mwoakilloa, and Pingelap.

(3) “Continental shelf” means the Continental Shelf established under section 105B. It comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond the Territorial Sea throughout the natural prolongation of land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the Territorial Sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance. The Continental Shelf may, in accordance with section 105C, extend beyond the 200 M from the baselines in accordance with the limits recognized by the Convention. For the purpose of this section, the term “continental margin” shall have the same interpretation as understood under the Convention.

(4) “Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(5) “Geodetic datum” means the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84).

(6) "Island" means a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide.

(7) "Low-water" means the Lowest Astronomical Tide.

(8) "Low-tide" has a corresponding meaning.

(9) "Mile" or "M" means the international nautical mile, equivalent to 1,852 meters.

(10) "Straight line" means geodesic.

(11) "Territorial Sea" means the territorial sea of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(12) "Zones" means the different maritime zones recognized in the Convention, namely: the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf.