

## ALBANIA

## SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Apr 1970	Decree No. 4650 on the Boundaries of Albania	12nm	Foreign warships and military airplanes require special authorization for innocent passage through and over the TS, except in cases of force majeure.  <i>Prior permission requirements are not recognized by the U.S.</i> U.S. protested the requirements in 1989 and conducted operational assertions in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2001.
	Feb 1976	Decree No. 5384 (Modifying Decree No. 4650)	15nm	Extended TS from 12 to 15nm.  <i>Excessive territorial sea claim was not recognized by the U.S.</i> U.S. protested the claim in 1989 and conducted operational assertions in 1984, 1985, and 1986.
	Mar 1990	Decree No. 7366 (Modifying Decrees No. 4650 & 5384)	12nm	Rolled back territorial sea to 12nm.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jul 1959	Decree No. 2960		Established straight baselines for northern two-thirds of national coastline.
	Apr 1970	Decree No. 4650 on the Boundaries of Albania		Straight baselines reiterated.
	Feb 1976	Decree No. 5384 (Modifying Decree No. 4650)		Modified straight baselines.
	Mar 1990	Decree No. 7366 (Modifying Decrees No. 4650 & 5384)		Reiterated excessive straight baseline claims. (See <a href="#">LIS No. 116</a> , excerpted below, for U.S. analysis of straight baselines.)  <i>These straight baseline claims are not recognized by the U.S.</i> U.S. protested in 1989 that the straight baselines did not meet geographic criteria required under international law and enclosed waters which are neither juridical bays nor historic waters claims, and conducted operational assertions in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2001.
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Dec 1964	1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf		Became party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf.
	Apr 1970	Decree No. 4650 on the Boundaries of Albania		Claimed sovereign rights over continental shelf regarding natural resources.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
<b>CONTINENTAL SHELF, Continued</b>	Jun 2003	LOS Convention		Acceded to Convention; the LOS Convention prevails over the 1958 Geneva Convention.
	Dec 1992	Continental shelf boundary agreement with Italy		Promulgates <a href="#">geographical coordinates</a> of the continental shelf boundary with Italy.
<b>FISHING ZONE/EEZ</b>	Feb 1976	Decree No. 5384	15nm	Fishery zone.
<b>MARITIME BOUNDARIES</b>	Dec 1992	Continental shelf boundary agreement with Italy		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Italy signed.
<b>LOS CONVENTION</b>	Jun 2003			Acceded to Convention; bound by Part XI Agreement.

#### NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The following excerpt from Decree No. 7366 to Modify Decree No. 4650, dated 24 March 1990, and the U.S. analysis of the Albanian straight baseline system that follows, are extracted from [Limits in the Seas, No. 116](#), "Straight Baseline Claims: Albania and Egypt," 6 May 1994.

Decree No. 7366 to Modify Decree 4650,  
dated 9 March 1990, on the  
State Border of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania

#### Article 1

The first paragraph, Article 4, of Decree No. 4650, should be modified as follows:

The territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania are extended along the entire coastline over a width of 12 nautical miles (22,224 m), beginning with the basic straight line running from Rodon Cape (Muzhli), Palle Cape, Lagji Cape (Turra Castle), Seman Cape, the Josa River estuary, the north-eastern shore of Sazan Island, Gjuheza and Grama Gulf Cape, then between the Albanian shore and the Greek islands up to the middle of the Corfu Channel. The width of the territorial waters from the Buna River estuary to Rodon Cape is extended up to the Albanian-Yugoslavian border line.

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#### U.S. ANALYSIS

The 1970 Decree 4650...titled, "On the Boundaries of the People's Republic of Albania," comprised 14 articles. The above 1990 Decree modifies the first paragraph of Article 4. The second paragraph of this Article, which is assumed to be still in force, states:

"The waters of the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea lying within the straight line passing through the capes mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, as well as the waters on this side of the boundary line of the border lakes and rivers, are internal waters of the People's Republic of Albania."

The [1990] Decree defines the baselines geographically by citing seven different features on the Albanian coastline, but giving no coordinates. The baseline lengths range from about 5 miles to approximately 16 miles.

Coastline Points		Distance between Points (miles - approximate)
Cape Rondo to	Cape Palla	11
Cape Palla to	Cape Lagji	16
Cape Lagji to	Cape Seman	14
Cape Seman to	Vjose River	15
Vjose River to	Sazan Island	10
Sazan Island to	Cape Gjuheza	5

There is only one island, Sazan Island, used as a basepoint, so the "fringing islands" criterion, cited in Article 7 of the LOS Convention, cannot be used to justify the straight baselines. Moreover, the coastline is relatively smooth and, therefore, the "deeply indented" coastline requirement is not met. Vlores Bay can be defined as a juridical bay by drawing a closing line which would be situated landward of Sazan Island. Other than this closing line, the baseline for the remaining Albanian coast should be the "normal" baseline, which is the low-water line as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by Albania.

## MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

### ALBANIA-ITALY

The following is extracted from the [Agreement between Albania and Italy](#) for the Determination of the Continental Shelf of Each of the Two Countries, signed 18 December 1992.

Starting from the desire to determine the division line of the border between the respective areas of the continental shelf in the Adriatic Sea and in the Otranto Channel, on which each of the two countries respectively exercises sovereign rights with the aim of exploring for and exploiting natural resources;

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#### Article I

1. Applying the principle of equidistance that is expressed in the median line, which is mentioned in the introduction to this Agreement, the division line between the two zones of the continental shelf of each of the two countries is determined from the lines that follow the geodesic curves that link the points, the geographic coordinates of which, referring to the geodesic system European Datum 1950, are as follows:

POINTS	LATITUDE (NORTH)	LONGITUDE (EAST)
1.	41° 16' 39"	18° 27' 43"
2.	41° 11' 37"	18° 32' 34"
3.	41° 08' 01"	18° 34' 37"
4.	41° 06' 29"	18° 35' 42"
5.	40° 55' 03"	18° 39' 31"
6.	40° 53' 06"	18° 39' 34"
7.	40° 50' 50"	18° 40' 16"
8.	40° 43' 59"	18° 42' 40"
9.	40° 40' 10"	18° 44' 23"
10.	40° 38' 46"	18° 44' 43"
11.	40° 35' 38"	18° 45' 35"

<b>POINTS</b>	<b>LATITUDE (NORTH)</b>	<b>LONGITUDE (EAST)</b>
12.	40° 30' 44"	18° 47' 45"
13.	40° 23' 17"	18° 51' 05"
14.	40° 21' 30"	18° 51' 35"
15.	40° 18' 50"	18° 52' 48"
16.	40° 12' 13"	18° 57' 05"
17.	40° 07' 55"	18° 58' 38"

The basic map used is the Albanian sea map "From Korfu to Dubrovnik - from Cape Santa Maria di Leuca up to the Troniti Islands" of the scale 1:500 000, of the mercator projection, edition of year 1984.

2. The Contracting Parties agreed that, for the present, the determination of the border should not extend beyond the first and the last point determined in the previous paragraph.

The completion of the determination in the north beyond point 1 and in the south beyond point 17 remains to be accomplished by later agreements respectively with the respective interested parties.