

DJIBOUTI

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Jan 79	Law 52/AN/78	12nm	Nuclear-powered vessels and vessels carrying nuclear or other radioactive material must give prior notification. Law does not modify "international rules of navigation" in strait of Bab al Mandeb.
	May 85	Law 59	12nm	<i>This requirement is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested requirement in 1989 and conducted operational assertions in 1998-2000.</i>
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 79	Law 52/AN/78		Established closing lines for the Gulf of Tadjoura.
	May 85	Decree No. 85-048		Established straight baselines for Seba Islands. <i>These straight baseline claims are excessive and are not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested claims in 1989 and conducted operational assertions in 1992, 1995 and 1997.</i>
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Jan 79	Law 52/AN/78	24nm	
	May 85	Law 59	24nm	
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jan 79	Law 52/AN/78	200nm	EEZ.
	May 85	Law 59	200nm	EEZ.
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION	Jan 79	Law 52/AN/78		Claimed exclusive jurisdiction to prevent and control pollution within EEZ.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed Convention.
	Oct 91			Ratified Convention.

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

Following are extracts from Decree No. 85-048 of the Council of Ministers of 5 May 1985.

The straight baselines which are used as a basis for the determination of the breadth of the territorial sea are drawn as follows on the charts of the French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service....

**TABLE C1.T74.
DJIBOUTI STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEM**

THE SEBA ISLANDS (MAP NO. 6329, PUBLISHED IN 1961) TANGENT ORIGINATING AT POINT D	
POINT	COORDINATES
D.	M - 43°15'.22 East L - 12°32'.10 North
To the low tide water mark on the islands of Siyyan Himar and Kadda Dabali, respectively;	
E.	M - 43°17'.90 East L - 12°31'.20 North
F.	M - 43°25'.80 East L - 12°28'.50 North
Tangent originating at point F above, to the low tide water mark on the island of Rhounda Komaytou at point:	
G.	M - 43°27'.22 East L - 12°26'.68 North
From point G above, to the low tide water mark Khor Angar at point:	
H.	M - 43°21'.88 East L - 12°22'.62 North
THE TADJOURAH GULF (Ref: Law No. 52/AN/78)	
A (North point of the mouth of Dalley Wadi):	M - 43°05'.10 East L - 11°50'.30 North
B (Musha Island lighthouse):	M - 43°12'.75 East L - 11°43'.80 North
C (South point of the mouth of Aatar Wadi):	M - 43°15'.50 East L - 11°30'.20 North

Article II

Outside of the above prescribed segments, measured from their intersection with the low tide water mark, the baseline from which the width of territorial waters is measured is the low tide water mark along the coast and around islands, sand bars and mud banks within those territorial waters.

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following analysis of Djibouti's straight baseline system is extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 113, "Straight Baseline Claims: Djibouti and Oman" of 22 April 1992.

From the straight baselines and the Gulf of Tadjoura closing lines Djibouti measures its 12 nm territorial sea. Along the remaining coastline the territorial sea is measured from the normal baseline (the low-water line).

The Gulf of Tadjoura is closed by two lines, A-B (9.9 nm) and B-C (13.9 nm), which extend from two points on the mainland to Isles Moucho. A closing line that would better delimit the waters of the Gulf as a juridical bay would be from point A to a point on the coast near the city of Djibouti. As claimed, the closing lines incorporate, in part, waters associated with the Gulf of Aden rather than the Gulf of Tadjoura.

The straight baselines connect the mainland to several of the Seba Islands which are situated off Djibouti's northeast coast at the southern entrance to Bab el Mandeb and the Red Sea. The seaward-most island, named Kadd Dabali in the Decree on which basepoint F is located, is about 7 miles from the mainland and about 10 miles from Yemen's Perim Island situated across the entrance to Bab el Mandeb.

Djibouti's mainland coast, in the vicinity of the Seba Islands, is smooth with some attached fringing coral reefs and, from the land boundary with [Eritrea], runs in a generally southeast direction. The approximately six small islands that comprise the Seba group run virtually perpendicular to the mainland coastline. As such, the islands do not fringe the coast, one of the prerequisites under Article 7 of the LOS Convention, for a state to claim straight baselines.

**TABLE C1.T75.
DJIBOUTI STRAIGHT BASELINES: U.S. ANALYSIS**

DISTANCES BETWEEN RESPECTIVE BASEPOINTS	
SEGMENT	LENGTH (NM)
D-E	2.8
E-F	8.2
F-G	3.1
G-H	6.0

The straight baselines do not have any impact on the drawing of Djibouti's territorial sea. Due to the close proximity of Yemen across the entrance to Bab el Mandeb, Djibouti's territorial sea in this direction will be less than 12 miles as a territorial sea boundary is required. To the south of the islands, Djibouti's mainland coast affects the 12-mile limit instead of baseline segment G-H. The straight baseline system does incorporate approximately 32 square (sq.) nautical miles (110 sq. kilometers) of water area as internal waters that, absent the straight baselines, would be territorial sea.