

ERITREA

Eritrea formally declared independence from Ethiopia on 24 May 1993. In 1991 it adopted aspects of the Maritime Code of Ethiopia as a Transitional Maritime Code of Eritrea.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Sep 53	Maritime Proclamation No. 137	12nm	Measured from maximum high-tide line; see fishery limits below.
	Sep 91	Transitional Maritime Code	12nm	Adopted territorial sea provisions of Ethiopia.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Sep 52	Federal Revenue Proclamation No. 126		Established customs boundaries around the Dahlac Islands.
	Sep 53	Maritime Proclamation No. 137		By reference to Proclamation No. 126 above, established territorial sea limits around the Dahlac Islands identical to the customs boundaries.
	Sep 91	Transitional Maritime Code		Adopted above boundaries around Dahlac Islands.
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Sep 53	Maritime Proclamation No. 137		In case of pearl and other sedentary fisheries, seaward limit of territorial waters extended to limits of fisheries.
MARITIME BOUNDARY	Dec 99	Arbitration Agreement		Established maritime boundary between Eritrea and Yemen on median line. (Chartlet available at UN LOS website; see Foreword for website information.)

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

The following is an extract from Maritime Proclamation No. 137 of 1953 in which the Ethiopian Government adopted the earlier-decreed customs zone around the Dahlac Islands as part of the territorial sea.

6 (f). The territorial waters of Our Empire are defined as extending from the extremity of sea-board at maximum annual high tide of the Ethiopian continental coast and of the coasts of Ethiopian islands, in parallel line on the entire sea-board and to an outward distance of twelve nautical miles, except that in the case of the Dahlac archipelago the seaward limit of the territorial waters shall be that defined in Our Federal Revenue Proclamation No. 126 of 1952, and that in the case of pearl and other sedentary fisheries the seaward limit of the territorial waters shall extend to the limits of the said fisheries. The Imperial Ethiopian Government have full dominion over the said waters and exclusive control over the natural resources within and beneath the said waters.

The following extract from Federal Revenue Proclamation No. 126 of 1952 shows the limits of the customs boundaries around the Dahlac Islands that later were decreed (see above) to be territorial sea boundaries as well:

[I]n the case of the Dahlac Archipelago, where, until further regulations, the customs boundaries shall be considered as being constituted by the quadrilateral consisting of lines joining the outermost northeastern and southeastern islands with the innermost northwestern and southwestern islands and except in the case of ports where the boundaries shall be the port areas as defined from time to time.