

FRANCE

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Dec 71	Law 71-1060	12nm	See Maritime Boundaries section below for bilateral agreements on territorial sea limits.
	Feb 85	Decree No. 85/185		Regulates passage of foreign ships through territorial waters. Tankers, nuclear powered ships or nuclear cargo ships required to use designated sea lanes/traffic separation schemes.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Oct 67	Decree		Established straight baselines.
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Dec 87	Act of 31 December 1987	24nm	Modifies Customs Code. New Article 44 introduced contiguous zone.
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Dec 68	Law No. 68-1181	1958 DEF	
	May 77	Act No. 77-485		Amended technical provisions (did not change claimed area).
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jul 76	Law No. 76-655	200nm	200nm defined as "extending up to 188nm from the outer limit of the territorial sea.
	Feb 77	Decree No. 77-130	200nm	Implemented EEZ for coasts bordering North Sea, English Channel, and Atlantic from Belgium to Spain. Breadth of EEZ subject to bilateral agreements, where appropriate.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Apr 75	Agreements (2)		Territorial sea and continental shelf boundary with Spain (Bay of Biscay) EIF. See LIS No. 83.
	Jun 77 & Mar 78	Arbitral Award		Continental shelf boundary with the UK in English Channel (west of 0° 30' W) and Atlantic approaches delimited.
	Feb 83	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with the UK in English Channel (east of 0° 30' W) EIF.
	Aug 85	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Monaco EIF.
	Apr 89	Agreement		Territorial sea boundary agreement in the area of the Strait of Bonifacio with Italy EIF.
	May 89	Agreement		Territorial sea with UK in Straits of Dover EIF.
	Oct 90	Agreement		Boundary agreement with Belgium signed.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
MARITIME BOUNDARIES, Continued	Jul 91	Agreement		Boundary agreement with the UK in the southern North Sea signed.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed Convention.
	Jul 94			Signed Part XI Agreement.
	Apr 96			Ratified Convention and Part XI Agreement, with Declaration.

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

Following is the text of a Decree by the Government of France of 19 October 1967 establishing the French straight baseline system:

DECREE defining the straight baselines and the closing lines of bays serving to determine the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial waters is measured.

On the basis of the report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Armed Forces, the Minister of Supply and Housing, and the Minister of Transport, and

IN VIEW OF Decree No. 67-451 of June 7, 1967 extending the belt in which fishing by Foreign vessels is prohibited, in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

The Prime Minister decrees:

Article 1

The straight baselines and the closing lines of bays serving to determine the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial waters is measured shall be drawn as follows:

**TABLE C1.T91.
FRENCH STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEM**

ENGLISH CHANNEL COAST	
AREA	BASELINE
Baie de Seine	From the Cap de la Heve light to the light on the west breakwater of Trouville harbor.
Saint-Vaast-la-Capelle Roadstead	From Pointe de Saire to the Iles Saint-Marcouf light and from the Iles Saint-Marcouf light to the northeastern end of the "Roches de Grand Camp" ferry-boat line.
Cherbourg Roadstead	From the Cap Levi lighthouse to Nacqueville Fort.
Anse de Vauville	From the Jobourg signal station to the Flamanville signal station.
Baie du Mont-Saint-Michel	From the Point du Roc light to Ilot Herpin and from there to Pointe du Grouin.

NORTH AND WEST BRITTANY

From Pointe du Grouin to the Menhir (Penmarch) light along a broken line connecting the following points:

Pointe du Grouin, Tourelle de Rochefort, the north-west point of Ile de Cézembre (off Saint-Malo), the northern tip of Cap Fréhel, Grand Léjon light (Baie de Saint-Brieuc), la Horaine light, les Héaux light, the northern tip of Ile Rouzic (Les Sept-Iles [the seven islands]), Triagoz light, Pen Ven rock (north of Ile de Batz), the northern tip of Ile Vierge, Corn-Carhai light, Ile de Keller, An Ividig light, the last rock uncovered at low tide west of the Chaussée [reef] de Sein (48°03'25" N and 05°02'20" W), Menhir light (Penmarc'h).

SOUTH BRITTANY AND VENDEE

From Menhir light (Penmarc'h) to les Baleineaux light (north of Ile de Ré) following the broken line joining the following points:

Menhir light (Penmarc'h), les Putains beacon, the southern point of Ile du Loch (Iles de Glénan), Pointe d'Enfer (south of Ile de Groix), Iles Baguénères (west of Belle-Ile), Pointe du Talut, Pointe de l'Echelle (south-east of Belle Ile), les Grands-Cardinaux light, la Banche light (off the estuaire de la Loire), Ile du Pilier light (north-west of Ile de Noirmoutier), le Bavard beacon, les Chiens-Perrins light (north-west of Ile d'Yeu), Pointe de la Tranche (tower at the south of Ile d'Yeu), Grande-Barge light (west of Les Sables d'Olonne), les Baleineaux light (north-west of Ile de Ré).

CONTINUATION OF TABLE C1.T91.

AREA	BASELINE
SOUTH VENDEE AND LANDES	
Pertuis l'Antioche	From the Chanchardon light to the Chassiron light.
Pertuis de Maumusson	From the la Cotiniere light to the la Coubre light.
Gironde Estuary	From the la Coubre light to the la Negade beacon.
MAINLAND COAST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN	
Golfe d'Aiques Mortes	From the mouth of the Grau de Palavas to the l'Espiquette lighthouse.
Golfe des Saintes Maries	From the Grau d'Orgon to the Beauduc beacon.
From Golfe de Fos to Baie de Sanary	From the point defined by coordinates 43° 19' 50" N and 4° 50' 00" E to Pointe de la Gardiole along a broken line connecting the following points: Point defined by coordinates 43° 19' 50" N and 4° 50' 00" E--Cap Couronne light--Ile du Planier light--eastern point of Ile Riou--la Cassidaigne light--Ile du Grand Rouveau light--southwestern point of Ile des Embiez--southern point of le Petit Gau--Pointe de la Gardiole.
From the Toulon roadstead to the Baie de Cavalaire	From the Cap Sicie light to the eastern tip of Cap Camarat along a broken line connecting the following points: Cap Sicie light--Cap d'Armes--Ilot de la Gabiniere--Cap Maupertuis--le Grand Cap--Pointe du Titan--Cap Taillat--eastern tip of Cap Camarat.
Baie de Pampelonne and Golfe de Saint-Tropez	From the eastern tip of Cap Camarat to Pointe des Issambres.
From Golfe de Frejus to Golfe Juan	From Pointe des Issambres to the l'Ilette lighthouse along a broken line connecting the following points: Pointe des Issambres--Ile de la Boute--les Moines turret--l'Ilette lighthouse.
Baie des Anges	From the northeast bastion of the Fort Carre d'Antibes to the Cap Ferrat (Villefranche) lighthouse.
Baie de Beaulieu	From Pointe de Saint Hospice to Cap d'Ail.
Haie de Roquebrune	From Pointe de la Vieille to Cap Martin.
COAST OF CORSICA	
Golfe de Saint-Florent	From Pointe de Canelle to Pointe de Mignole.
Golfe de Calvi	From Pointe d'Espagno to Pointe Revellata.
Cap de la Morsetta to Golfe de Pinarello	Between Cap de la Morsetta to the northeastern point of Golfe de Pinarello along a broken line connecting the following points: Cap de la Morsetta--Pointe des Scoglietti--Ilot de Gargalo--Cap Rosso--Pointe d'Omnignis--Cap de Feno (Golfe de Sagone)--western point of Iles Sanguinaires--Cap Muro light--Pointe de Senetose--les Moines light--Cap Pertusato light--Ilot Lavezzi light--eastern point of Ile Cavallo--southeastern point of Ile Forana (Iles Cerbicales)--southeastern point then northeastern point of Golfe de Pinarello.

Article 2

The following shall be repealed on the date of publication of this decree:

The decree of July 9, 1888 fixing, for the bays in the fifth maritime district, the line from which the three miles making up the French territorial sea are to be measured:

The decree of June 1, 1938 fixing, for the Maritime Registration Divisions [Directions d'Inscription Maritime] of Le Havre, Saint-Servan, and Bordeaux, the boundaries of the waters reserved for French fisheries.

Article 3

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Armed Forces, the Minister of Supply and Housing, and the Minister of Transport shall be responsible, each with respect to the matters under his jurisdiction, for enforcing this decree which shall be published in the Journal Officiel [Official Gazette] of the French Republic.

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following comments regarding France's straight baseline system are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 37, "Straight Baselines: France" of 29 February 1972.

For the convenience of the discussion, the straight-baselines system has been divided into sectors....

TABLE C1.T92.
FRENCH STRAIGHT BASELINES: U.S. ANALYSIS

FRENCH STRAIGHT BASELINES: U.S. ANALYSIS	
SECTOR	BASELINE
Sector No. 1	The approximately 8.4 nautical mile line closes the mouth of the Seine River. The natural closing point on the north, Cap de la Heve, marks the seaward limit of the riverine estuary; on the south coast, which is essentially featureless, no distinctive locational point has been chosen.
Sector No. 2	Two continuous lines of 6.8 and 7.5 nautical miles in length enclose a rectangular indentation of the coast to the east of the Normandy peninsula. The indentation, which is not a juridical bay or a deep penetration of the land, is labeled as a roadstead. The maximum penetration of the sea into the land is about 3 nautical miles. Several small islets are enclosed; the waters within the baseline are essentially shoal.
Sector No. 3	Although defined in the decree, this area is not represented on the cited charts. The closing line, which measures 9.5 miles, delimits the Cherbourg roadstead.
Sector No. 4	The 8.9 nautical mile straight baseline encloses the shallow indentation of the Anse de Vauville which has a maximum penetration of 3 nautical miles.
Sector No. 5	This sector may be divided into two distinctive segments related to the coastal morphology: 1) the Bay of Mont-St. Michel, and 2) the indented coasts of Brittany and Vendee. The bay meets the specifications of a juridical bay, and it is enclosed by a two-segmented line totaling 11.5 nautical miles. The north coast of Brittany is deeply embayed and fringed with many small islands, reefs, rocks, and low-tide elevations. The straight-baseline system primarily utilizes the islands and islets as basepoints although one mainland cape (Frehel) also does serve. Thirteen segments cover the entire northern coast to the west of the Ile d'Ouessant. The segments total approximately 142.5 nautical miles and have an average length of 10.9 nautical miles. The longest segment measures 23.4 nautical miles; it is situated to the east of the Ile Vierge. Drying rocks are used as basepoints, but all are cited as navigational lights. The western shore of Brittany and Vendee is delimited by baselines which total approximately 212.3 nautical miles. Several apparent discrepancies exist between the textual description of the decree and charts (U.S. and French). The attached chart [omitted] may, as a result, be incorrect in the vicinity of the Ile de Groix. The point situated directly to the west of the island should probably be located several miles farther to the north. In addition, the straight baseline from this point should terminate at the west cape of the island. The line continuing southward is apparently correct; a break in the straight baselines exists on the cited chart. The coast of the island serves as the baseline in the intervening area. The longest segment measures approximately 39 nautical miles, although the average length is about 17.7 nautical miles.

FRENCH STRAIGHT BASELINES: U.S. ANALYSIS	
SECTOR	BASELINE
Sector 6	The single line closes the northern entrance of the bay-like indentation of La Rochelle. The line may be considered a continuation of the previous system or a bay/river closure. The line measures approximately 7.9 nautical miles in length.
Sector 7	The two segments serve to close the previously defined area in the south and the mouth of the Gironde River. The first segment does not, in the normal sense, enclose landlocked waters. The two segments measure 12.0 and 11.8 nautical miles, respectively.
Sector 8	The single 9.4 nautical mile line encloses the Golfe d'Aiguesmortes, which is neither a juridical bay nor a deep indentation of the coast. The line, however, has a very marginal effect on the seaward limit of territorial waters.
Sector 9	A single 8.25 nautical mile line delimits the Golfe de Beauduc, which is neither a juridical bay nor a deep indentation of the coast. As in the previous sector, the effect on the sea is minimal.
Sector 10	East of the Rhone delta, the Mediterranean straight baselines are noncontinuous; minor sections of insular or mainland coastline serve as the territorial sea baseline. From the Rhone to the Toulon roadstead, eight segments enclose embayments of a rugged coastal region utilizing offshore islands as primary basepoints. . . . The longest of these segments measures approximately 21.1 nautical miles, although the average length of line is slightly less than 8.5 nautical miles.
Sector 11	East of Toulon the same general coastal configuration continues. Eleven baseline segments total slightly more than 75 nautical miles. The longest is 15.4 nautical miles while the average is about 6.8 nautical miles.
Sectors 12 and 13	These two sectors comprise three detached segments. The western line (10.25 nautical miles) closes the Baie de Anges and the Baie de Villefranche. Viewed together, the two bays do not constitute a juridical bay although they do constitute a major indentation. The central segment (2.8 nautical miles) closes the Baie de St. Hospice, and the final segment (2.5 n.m.), which is not represented on the cited charts, delimits the Baie de Roquebrune.
Sector 14	The western and southeastern coasts of the islands of Corsica are deeply indented and/or fringed with many islands and islets. Two bay-closing lines have been delimited for the juridical bays of Golfe de St. Florent (8.7 nautical miles) and the Golfe de Calvi (3.45 nautical miles). From the Cap de la Marsetta, a continuous system of straight baselines encloses the remainder of the western and southeastern shores to the northeastern point of the Golfe de Pinarello. Eighteen segments constitute the system, and they total approximately 120.2 nautical miles in length. The longest segment measures approximately 12.25 nautical miles, while the average length is about one-half of this figure. The total French system of straight baselines measures about 715 nautical miles. Over one-half (366.3 nautical miles) delimits the rugged and embayed Brittany coast of northwestern France. Approximately 276 nautical miles serve the Mediterranean shores, including Corsica. The longest segment is less than 40 nautical miles in length. The straight-baseline system increases French internal waters significantly but, with the recent legislation for a 12 nautical mile territorial sea, has a limited effect on the extension of the seaward limit of the French territorial sea.