

GEORGIA

Maritime claims of the former Soviet Union are considered to remain in effect for its component successor States, unless otherwise declared. On 24 December 1998, Georgia passed domestic legislation regarding its maritime spaces, but an English translation has not been made available as of this printing.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Apr 73	Protocol (amended 1983)	12nm	Territorial sea boundary between Soviet and Turkish waters delimited. See LIS No. 109.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 85	Council of Ministers Decree		USSR established straight baselines for coasts on the Arctic Ocean, Black Sea, and Baltic Sea. However, none of the 1985 USSR straight baselines apply to the coast of what is now Georgia, where the USSR declared normal baselines.
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jun 78	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary between USSR and Turkey (Black Sea) signed; EIF May 1981.
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Dec 86 - Feb 87	Exchange of Notes (Agreement)		Establishes that the continental shelf boundary from the 1978 agreement with Turkey also constitutes EEZ boundary.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Apr 73	Agreement		Territorial sea boundary (Black Sea) agreement between Turkey and former USSR signed; ratified by Turkey May 82, by USSR Jan 74. A Protocol delimiting this boundary was signed Sep 83. See LIS Nos. 59 and 109.
	Jun 78	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary (Black Sea) agreement between Turkey and the former USSR signed; EIF May 81. See LIS No. 109.
	Feb 87	Exchange of Notes		Turkey and USSR agree to use the continental shelf boundary as the boundary for the EEZ.
	Jul 97	Protocol		Agreement with Turkey confirming the validity of the above treaties between Turkey and the former USSR.
LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION	Mar 96			Acceded to Convention; bound by Part XI Agreement.

MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

GEORGIA - TURKEY

On 14 July 1997, Turkey and Georgia signed a Protocol confirming the validity of the agreements Turkey signed with the former USSR establishing the territorial sea, continental shelf, and EEZ boundaries between the two countries in the Black Sea. The Protocol that defined the territorial sea boundary was signed on 17 April 1973, ratified by the USSR on 3 January 1974, and ratified by Turkey on 3 May 1982. (The text and an analysis of the 1973 Protocol are printed in [Limits in the Seas](#), No. 59, "Soviet-Turkey Territorial Sea Boundary," 9 October 1974.) A Protocol-Description delimiting this boundary was signed on 11 September 1983. Excerpts from the Protocol-Description, below, and the analysis

following it are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 109, "Continental Shelf Boundary: Turkey-U.S.S.R. and Straight Baselines: U.S.S.R. (Black Sea)" of 29 September 1988.

The sea boundary line between Soviet and Turkish territorial seas in the Black Sea is defined at the locality of two leading marks and one sea spar buoy in the sea.

...Calculation of the rectangular coordinates of the centers of the front and rear range marks, as well as the installation point of the sea spar buoy and the terminal point of the sea boundary line were done under the Turkish system of coordinates, under the Gauss-Kruger projection on the Hayford ellipsoid in the coordinated zone with axial meridian $L_0 = 42^\circ$. The elevations indicated in the documents were calculated on the mean level of the Black Sea.

The map of the sea boundary between the territorial waters of the [USSR] and the Republic of Turkey in the Black Sea is compiled on a scale of 1:100,000.

Moreover, the topographic plan was compiled of the border zone of the Soviet-Turkish boundary in the region where the range marks are located, on a scale of 1:5000.

With respect to the range marks which define the sea boundary line, the following documents have been compiled: protocol of the front range mark, protocol of the rear range mark, rough sketch-diagram on a scale of 1:2,500, and protocol of the sea spar buoy.

A map, plan and rough sketch-diagram were compiled by each side independently in its own language in accordance with instructions approved by the Joint Soviet-Turkish Commission on Delimiting the Sea Boundary.

The initial point of the sea boundary line between the territorial waters of the [USSR] and the Republic of Turkey in the Black Sea is the final point of the Soviet-Turkish state land boundary, defined during the redemarcation of the boundary in 1969-1973.

In accordance with documents of the border redemarcation of December 29, 1973, this point is located at the place where the shoreline of the Black Sea intersects with the continuation of the perpendicular dropped from the center of the special boundary mark, which is located on the land boundary line, onto the direct line uniting the Soviet and Turkish column of the main boundary mark No. 450.

The geographic and rectangular coordinates of the initial point of the sea boundary line are as follows:

**TABLE C1.T95.
GEORGIA - TURKEY BLACK SEA BOUNDARY**

Latitude = 41° 31' 18.39"	Longitude = 41° 32' 55.06"
X = 4,596,860.80	Y = 462,337.80

From the point indicated above, the Soviet-Turkish sea boundary line between the territorial waters of the [USSR] and the Republic of Turkey passes along a straight line in a northwesterly direction along the 290° azimuth, and approaches the final point of the Soviet-Turkish sea boundary line at a point that intersects the external boundary line of the territorial seas of the [USSR] and the Republic of Turkey.

The final point of the sea boundary line between the USSR and Turkey in the Black Sea is defined as the point where the 12-mile boundary of Soviet and Turkish territorial seas, formed by arcs drawn at a distance of 12 miles from the Soviet and Turkish coasts, intersects the boundary line between the territorial seas, passing along the 290° 00' 00" azimuth.

The geographic and rectangular coordinates of the final point of the sea boundary line are as follows:

CONTINUATION OF TABLE C1.T95.

Latitude = 41° 35' 43.41"	Longitude = 41° 16' 40.88"
X = 4,605,187.44	Y = 439,827.34

The length of the sea boundary line between Soviet and Turkish territorial seas equals 12.96 nautical miles (24.01 km).

A sea spar buoy is emplaced in order to define the sea boundary line near the coast at a distance of 400 meters from the center of the front range mark.

The range marks built on the extension of the sea boundary line on the territory of the [USSR] and the Republic of Turkey are located at a distance of 288.50 meters from one another and are situated as follows: the front range mark in the region of main boundary mark No. 450, and the rear range mark in the region of main boundary mark No. 448.

The range marks provide shields for daytime visibility and for the lighting (beacon) equipment, and are counted on to ensure daytime and nighttime visibility during good atmospheric conditions all along the sea boundary line.

At night the direction of the sea boundary line is defined by combining the light of the rear range mark with the white light of the central light sector of the front range mark along the vertical line.

The lighting (beacon) equipment of the front range mark is equipped with a red and green light filter, each having a lighting sector of 10°. The red light warns vessels approaching from the Turkish Side, and the green light warns vessels approaching from the Soviet side that they are nearing the boundary line.

Two lateral white lights of the lighting sector of the front range mark point out to the vessels the location of that sign.

In terms of locality, the distance between range marks is slight (288.50 m). Therefore the range marks will be seen as overlapping at a certain distance on both sides from the sea boundary line. In the middle of the boundary this distance is approximately 150 meters, while at the end of the boundary it is approximately 550 meters to each side of the sea boundary line.

U.S. ANALYSIS

Territorial Sea Boundary

The territorial sea boundary between Turkey and the USSR was defined by a protocol signed on April 17, 1973. Under the terms of this protocol the territorial sea boundary was to begin at the terminus of their land boundary and extend northwest at a 290° azimuth to the outer limit of the territorial sea claims (12 nautical miles) of Turkey and the USSR; a joint commission was to undertake the delimitation of the territorial sea boundary. The results of this commission's work are given in the 1983 protocol. The coordinates of the terminal points of the territorial sea boundary listed in the protocol vary slightly from those given in the earlier study by the Office of the Geographer [LIS No. 59] due to differences in the initial point selected, charts used, and mathematical model (shape) assumed for the earth's surface.

Nature of the Boundary

The territorial sea boundary is a single, almost 13 nautical mile (nm), geodetic line segment extending from the terminus of the Turkey-USSR land boundary, which has been redemarcated between 1969 and 1973, to the outer limit of the 12 nm territorial seas claimed by both Turkey and the USSR. The geodetic character of the line segment can be deduced because a rhumb line with the same terminal points has a slightly smaller azimuth than that required under terms of the 1973 protocol and reiterated in the 1983 delimitation protocol (290° 00' 00"). A geodetic line with the terminal points listed in the 1983 protocol fulfills the azimuthal requirement.

A geodetic line also best fulfills the term "straight line," which is used in the 1980 Protocol. A rhumb line, though appearing as a straight line on a Mercator map, is a spiral on the surface of the earth, whereas a geodetic line is the shortest--and therefore straightest--line between two points on a mathematically-defined spheroid surface, such as the surface of the earth.

Depiction

The territorial sea boundary was depicted on maps reprinted with the 1983 protocol and technical appendices in the Turkish gazette. The protocol explicitly states that calculations were done on the Turkish system of coordinates using a Gauss-Kruger (transverse Mercator) projection and Hayford ellipsoid.

The following is extracted from the Agreement between Turkey and the USSR concerning the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf in the Black Sea (signed 23 June 1978, EIF May 1981).

Article I

The boundary of the continental shelf between the Republic of Turkey and the [USSR] in the Black sea is the line that begins on the final point of the sea boundary line between the territorial seas of Turkey and the Soviet Union in the Black Sea as established by a Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the [USSR] on Determining the Sea Boundary Line between the Territorial Seas of Turkey and Soviet Union in the Black Sea, of April 17, 1973. This line proceeds in general in a westerly direction through points, the geographic coordinates of which are as follows:

**TABLE C1.T96.
GEORGIA - TURKEY CONTINENTAL
SHELF/EEZ COORDINATES**

LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE EAST
41°35'41	41°16'33"
41°57'00"	40°41'33"
42°01'52"	40°26'00"
42°08'21"	39°49'37"
42°20'15"	39°00'13"
42°25'28"	38°32'10"
43°10'55"	36°50'42"
43°26'04"	36°10'57"
43°26'08"	35°30'25"
43°11'17"	34°13'10"
43°11'50"	33°36'56"
43°20'43"	32°00'00"

[T]he delimitation line of the continental shelf between the Republic of Turkey and the [USSR] will be defined up to the point with the following coordinates: 43°20'43" north latitude and 32°00'00" east longitude. [S]ettling the question of drawing the delimitation line of the continental shelf further to the west...will be carried out...during...negotiations which will be held at a suitable time.