

MAURITANIA

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	12nm	Rolled back prior excessive claim of 70nm.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120		Reiterated 1967 straight baseline claim (Law 67-023) from Cap Blanc to Cap Timiris. (See LIS No. 8.) Low water mark elsewhere. <i>This straight baseline claim is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested in 1989 and conducted operational assertions from 1981 to 1992 (overflights).</i>
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	24nm	
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	CM/ 200nm	
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	200nm	EEZ.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Nov 76	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Morocco EIF.
	Sep 2003	Agreement		Boundary agreement with Cape Verde signed.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed Convention.
	Aug 94			Signed Part XI Agreement.
	Jul 96			Ratified Convention; bound by Part XI Agreement.

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

Following is an extract from Ordinance 88-120 of 31 August 1988 delineating the straight baseline for Mauritania. (The 1988 law reiterates the baseline first announced in 1967.)

Article 1

The territorial sea of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania extends to a breadth of 12 nautical miles measured from the following baselines:

- (a) A straight baseline drawn between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris; and
- (b) The low-water line everywhere else.

The waters located on the landward side of the baseline form part of the internal waters of the state.

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following analysis is extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 8, "Straight Baselines: Mauritania" of 18 February 1970.

The straight baseline measures approximately 89 nautical miles in length and it includes with Mauritanian internal waters approximately 60 percent of the very shallow Banc d'Arguin. The depth of the water along the straight baseline appears everywhere to be less than 10 fathoms. The enclosed waters, while forming a major indentation of the Mauritanian coast, do not satisfy the semicircular requirements of a bay. The greatest indentation of the coast, measured perpendicular to the straight baseline, is approximately 34.2 nautical miles,

The straight baseline extends over approximately 30 percent of the Mauritanian coast. The low water line forms the baseline for the remaining portions of the coast.

MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

MAURITANIA - MOROCCO

The following is extracted from the Convention concerning the State Frontier Line established between Mauritania and Morocco (signed 14 April 1976; EIF November 1976).

Section 1

The Parties hereto agree that the official boundary established between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco is determined by an imaginary straight line drawn from the point of intersection of the Atlantic coast and the 24th parallel north to the point of intersection of the 23d parallel north and the 13th meridian west; the intersection of this baseline with the present boundary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania constituting the southwestern limit of the boundary of the Kingdom of Morocco.

From this point the boundary follows in a northerly direction the present boundary follows in a northerly direction the present boundary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to a point constituted by the coordinates [on a map attached to the agreement].

Section 2

The official boundary between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco, as determined in Section 1 of this agreement, effectively bounds the surface, air space and subsurface area of the parties hereto. The boundary with regard to the continental shelf is constituted by the 24th parallel north.