

TONGA

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Jun 79	Act No. 30, Territorial Sea and EEZ Act, amended by Act No. 19 of 1989	12nm	
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jun 79	Act No. 30, Territorial Sea and EEZ Act, amended by Act No. 19 of 1989		Establishes baselines
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Aug 70	Continental Shelf Act, No. 6		
	Jun 71			Became party to the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf.
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jun 79	Act No. 30, Territorial Sea and EEZ Act, amended by Act No. 19 of 1989	200nm	EEZ and fishing zone
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Jan 80	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with France (Wallis & Futuna Islands) EIF on signature. Delimitation of EEZ is median line or line of equidistance from the baselines of the territorial sea.
LOS CONVENTION	Aug 95			Acceded to Convention; bound by Part XI Agreement.

BASELINE LEGISLATION

The following are excerpts from Act No. 30, the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act of 1978, as amended by Act No. 19 of 1989.

5. (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 6 of this Act, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Tonga is measured shall be:

- a. In the case of islands situated on atolls or of islands having fringing reefs, the low-water mark along the seaward edge of the reef;
- b. In the case of islands not situated on atolls or of islands not having fringing reefs, the low-water mark along the coast of those islands.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a low-tide elevation that lies wholly or partly within the breadth of sea that would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth of the territorial sea shall be treated as an island.

6. In the case of the sea adjacent to a bay, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured:

- a. Where the bay has only one mouth and the distance between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of the bay does not exceed 24 nm, shall be a straight line joining those low-water marks; and
- b. Where, because of the presence of islands, the bay has more than one mouth and the distances between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of each mouth added together do not exceed 24 nm, shall be a series of straight lines across each of the mouths so as to join those low-water marks; and
- c. Where neither paragraph 1 nor paragraph b of this section apply, shall be a straight line 24 nm in length drawn from low-water mark to low-water mark within the bay in such a manner as to enclose the maximum area of water that is possible with a line of that length.