

UNITED KINGDOM

See also United Kingdom: British Overseas Territories.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Sep 91	Territorial Sea Act 1987	12nm	Extended the territorial sea for the mainland and Northern Ireland from 3 to 12nm. The Territorial Waters Orders of 1964 and 1979 remain in force regarding other provisions.
	Sep 64	Territorial Waters Order		Established straight baselines between Cape Wrath and the Mull of Kintyre.
	1979	Territorial Waters (Amendment) Order		Refines specific coordinates for above straight baselines.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Apr 89	Territorial Sea Limits Order No. 482		Provides straight baselines for part of southern coast (Southampton/Isle of Wight).
	Aug 99	Continental Shelf (Designation of Areas) Order 1999	varies	Incorporates all Continental Shelf legislation, including 1964 Act establishing the continental shelf, to all amendments and additional designations of area from 1968 to 1999.
FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jan 77	Order-in-Council based on 22 Dec 76 Fishery Limits Act	200nm or median	Fishing zone; repealed sections of 1964 Act establishing 12nm limit.
	Feb 93	Exchange of Notes		Delimits fishing zones with France around the Bailiwick of Guernsey in the Channel Islands.
	Jun 99	Fisheries Limits Order 1999		Delimits fishing zone between UK and Denmark.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Jun 65	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Norway EIF. (Amended by protocol in 1978).
	Dec 66	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with the Netherlands EIF. (Amended by protocol in 1971.)
	Feb 67	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Denmark EIF.
	Dec 72	Agreements		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Germany (FRG) EIF.
	Jun 77 & Mar 78	Arbitral Award		Continental shelf boundary with France in English Channel (west of 0° 30'W) and Atlantic approaches delimited.
	Feb 80	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary extension agreement with Norway EIF.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
MARITIME BOUNDARIES, Continued	Feb 83	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with France for area east of 0° 30'W EIF.
	Apr 89	Agreement		Territorial Sea boundary with France in Strait of Dover EIF.
	Jan 90	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Ireland EIF. (Amended by protocol in 1992.)
	Mar 93	Agreement		Boundary agreement with France in southern North Sea EIF.
	May 93	Agreement		Boundary agreement with Belgium EIF.
	May 99	Agreement		Agreement between Denmark, Faroe Islands, UK, and N. Ireland on the Maritime Delimitation in the Area between the Faroe Islands and the UK.
LOS CONVENTION	Jul 94			Signed Part XI Agreement.
	Jul 97			Acceded to Convention, with Declaration, and ratified Part XI Agreement (applicable to British Overseas Territories as well).

STRAIGHT BASELINE LEGISLATION

Following are excerpts of the Order-in-Council of 25 September 1964 establishing the British straight baseline system, and coordinates provided in Territorial Waters Order 1979.

2. (1) Except as otherwise provided in Articles 3 and 4 of this Order, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man is measured shall be low-water line along the coast, including the coast of all islands comprised in those territories.

(2) For the purposes of this Article a low-tide elevation which lies wholly or partly within the breadth of sea which would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth thereof and if Article 3 of this Order were omitted shall be treated as an island.

3. (1) The baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured between Cape Wrath and the Mull of Kintyre shall consist of the series of straight lines drawn so as to join successively, in the order in which they are there set out, the points identified by the co-ordinates of latitude and longitude in the first column of the Schedule to this order, each being a point situated on the low-water line and on or adjacent to the feature, if any, named in the second column of that Schedule opposite to the co-ordinates of latitude and longitude of the point in the column.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall be without prejudice to the operation of Article 2 of this Order in relation to any island or low-tide elevation which for the purpose of that Article is treated as if it were an island, being an island or low-tide elevation which lies to seaward of the baseline specified in paragraph (1) of this Article.

4. In the case of the sea adjacent to a bay, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall, subject to the provisions of Article 3 of this order--

(a) if the bay has only one mouth and the distance between the low-water line of the natural entrance points of the bay does not exceed 24 miles, be a straight line joining the said low-water lines;

(b) if, because of the presence of islands, the bay has more than one mouth and the distances between the low-water lines of the natural entrance points of each mouth added together do not exceed 24 miles, be a series of straight lines across each of the mouths drawn so as to join the said low-water lines;

(c) If neither paragraph (a) nor (b) of this Article applies, be a straight line 24 miles in length drawn from low-water line to low-water line within the bay in such a manner as to enclose the maximum area of water that is possible with a line of that length.

TABLE C1.T269.
U.K. STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEM

U.K. STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEM			
POINTS BETWEEN CAPE WRATH AND THE MULL OF KINTYRE JOINED TO FORM BASELINES			
POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST	NAME
1	58 37 40	05 00 13	Cape Wrath
2	58 31 12	06 15 41	Lith Sgeir
3	58 30 44	06 16 55	Gealltuig
4	58 29 09	06 20 17	Dell Rock
5	58 18 27	06 47 45	Tiumpán Head
6	58 17 36	06 52 43	Mas Sgeir
7	58 17 09	06 55 20	Old Hill
8	58 14 31	07 02 00	Gallan Head
9	58 13 54	07 02 57	
10	58 10 39	07 06 54	Eilean Molach
11	57 59 08	07 17 42	Casker
12	57 41 19	07 43 13	Haskeir Eagach
13	57 32 22	07 43 58	Huskeiran
14	57 14 33	07 27 44	Rudha Ardvule
15	57 00 50	07 31 42	Greian Head
16	56 58 07	07 33 24	Diorlinn Head
17	56 56 57	07 34 17	Aird a' Chaolais
18	56 56 05	07 34 55	Biruaslum
19	56 49 21	07 39 32	Guarsay Mor
20	56 48 00	07 39 57	Sron an Duin
21	56 47 07	07 39 36	Skate Point
22	56 19 17	07 06 55	Skerryvore
23	56 07 58	06 38 00	Dubh Artach
24	55 41 36	06 32 02	Frenchman's Rocks
25	55 40 24	06 30 59	Orsay Island
26	55 35 24	06 20 18	Mull of Oa
27	55 17 57	05 47 54	Mull of Kintyre

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following comments regarding the British Straight baseline system are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 23, "Straight Baselines: United Kingdom" of 26 June 1970 (and remain relevant for the 1979 amendment).

This Order establishes the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man is measured. This, generally, is low-water line round the coast, including the coast of all islands, but between Cape Wrath and the Mull of Kintyre a series of straight lines joining specified points lying generally on the seaward side of the islands lying off the coast are used, and where there are well defined bays elsewhere lines not exceeding 24 miles in length drawn across the bays are used.

The bay closing lines are not specified in the order but on the map "Foreign Fishing Rights and Concessions within the Fisheries Limits of the British Isles", prepared by the Hydrographer 1965, closing lines have been indicated for the following bays:

**TABLE C1.T270.
U.K. BAY CLOSING POINTS**

NO.	BAY
a)	Firth of Clyde
b)	Solway Firth including Luce and Wigtown Bays
c)	Morecambe Bay
d)	Tremadoc Bay
e)	Bristol Channel including Carmarthen Bay (all on the west coast of Great Britain)
f)	the Thames Estuary
g)	The Wash
h)	the Humber Estuary
i)	Firth of Forth
j)	Firth of Tay
k)	Moray Firth (all on the east coast of Great Britain); and
l)	Belfast Lough (in Northern Ireland)

The U.K. straight baselines total 282.10 nautical miles; the average length of a segment is approximately 11.25 nautical miles. There are four segments over 24 miles in length; the longest sector (1 - 2) is 40.25 nautical miles. The sector closes the island-mainland passage in the north. The southern sector is closed by lines 20 - 22 which measure 52.8 nautical miles in total.

The Hebrides and associated islands "screen" virtually all of the mainland coast. The water area enclosed by the straight baselines is estimated to exceed the land area enclosed by a ratio nearly identical with that of Norway, i.e. 3.5:1.

The following straight baselines are taken from the Territorial Sea Limits Order 1989, No. 482, regarding the south coast of Great Britain (Southampton and Isle of Wight). These are the same coordinates as in the November 1988 Agreement with France regarding the territorial sea in the Strait of Dover.

**TABLE C1.T271.
U.K. STRAIGHT BASELINES: SOUTHAMPTON AND ISLE OF WIGHT**

STRAIGHT BASELINES: SOUTHAMPTON AND ISLE OF WIGHT		
POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
1	50° 49' 30" 95	01° 15' 53" 43
2	50° 53' 47" 00	01° 16' 58" 00

STRAIGHT BASELINES: SOUTHAMPTON AND ISLE OF WIGHT		
POINT	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST
3	50° 57' 00" 00	01° 21' 25" 00
4	51° 02' 19" 00	01° 32' 53" 00
5	51° 05' 58" 00	01° 43' 31" 00
6	51° 12' 00" 72	01° 53' 20" 07

U.S. ANALYSIS

The following comments regarding the British Straight baseline system are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 23, "Straight Baselines: United Kingdom" of 26 June 1970, and remain relevant for the 1979 amendment.

...[O]n the south coast of Great Britain, straight baselines appear to have been drawn from the mainland to the western tip of the Isle of Wight and from the southern point of the same isle to Selsey Bill, also on the mainland. These lines enclose the Solent, the harbor of Southampton. Since they are not included within the straight baselines, the assumption is that the United Kingdom considers the water a juridical bay or a harbor roadstead."