

Maldives

Maritime Zones of Maldives Act No. 6/96¹

[Unofficial translation]

Introduction

1. This Act makes provision in respect of the internal waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone and the exclusive economic zone of Maldives. This Act shall be cited as "Maritime Zones of Maldives Act".

Internal waters

2. The inland waters of every atoll of Maldives, lagoons and reefs of islands shall be the internal waters of Maldives. In addition to these waters, the Government of Maldives has the right to designate, in accordance with the rule of international law, other maritime areas as internal waters of Maldives.

Archipelagic waters

3. Save the internal waters of Maldives as determined under section 2 of this Act, the maritime area contained within the archipelagic baselines established in accordance with Schedule 1 to this Act shall be the archipelagic waters of Maldives.

Territorial sea

4. The maritime area contained within 12 nautical miles measured from the archipelagic baselines established in accordance with Schedule 1 to this Act shall be the territorial sea of Maldives.

Contiguous zone

5. The maritime area contained within 12 nautical miles measured from the outer limits of the territorial sea as determined under section 4 of this Act shall be the contiguous zone of Maldives.

Exclusive economic zone

6. The maritime area adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea as determined under section 4 of this Act together with the seabed thereof up to 200 nautical miles measured from the archipelagic baselines as established in accordance with Schedule 1 to this Act shall be the exclusive economic zone of Maldives.

Overlap between the exclusive zone of Maldives and the exclusive economic zone of another State

7. In the event that the exclusive economic zone of Maldives as determined under section 6 of this Act overlaps with the exclusive economic zone of another State, this Act does not prohibit the Government of Maldives from entering into an agreement with that State as regards the area of overlapping and delimiting the exclusive economic zone of Maldives for the said area of overlapping.

¹ Source: US Department of State.

Sovereignty

8. In addition to the land territory of Maldives and the airspace thereabove, the sovereignty of Maldives shall extend to the internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea, together with the seabed and subsoil and airspace thereof.

Sovereign rights

9. Within its exclusive economic zone, Maldives shall have sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources contained therein, whether living or non-living, and with regard to other activities for purposes of the economic exploitation of the zone. Economic exploitation of the natural resources found in the zone by persons other than nationals of Maldives or the conduct of scientific research within the zone as well as the construction, operation and use of any artificial island installation or structure within the zone for any of the foregoing purposes shall be subject to authorization from the Government of Maldives.

Jurisdiction over contiguous zone

10. Maldives may exercise within the contiguous zone the control necessary to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within the territory of Maldives and its territorial sea and to punish the infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within the territory and the territorial sea of Maldives.

Entry of foreign vessel into Maldives internal waters

11. No foreign vessel shall enter the internal waters of Maldives except with prior authorization from the Government of Maldives in accordance with the laws and regulations of Maldives.

Entry into archipelagic waters

12. Foreign vessels shall have the right of continuous and expeditious archipelagic passage in the sea lanes designated by the Government of Maldives from among international navigation channels. Such passage shall be in accordance with the regulations made under this Act.

Entry into the territorial sea

13. (a) Save such vessels engaged in innocent passage compatible with international laws, no vessel shall enter the territorial sea of Maldives except in accordance with the laws and regulations of Maldives.

(a) No foreign warship or foreign nuclear-powered ship or ship carrying nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances shall enter the territorial sea of Maldives for any purpose except with prior authorization of the Government of Maldives and in accordance with the laws and regulations of Maldives.

Entry into the exclusive economic zone

14. No foreign vessel shall enter the exclusive economic zone of Maldives except with prior authorization from the Government of Maldives in accordance with the laws of Maldives.

Entry into and passage through the airspace

15. (a) Except in accordance with international standards and applicable regulations in force in Maldives, no foreign aircraft shall engage in any overflight across the airspace or via air routes above the land territory, internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea of Maldives. Except as provided above, no aircraft shall enter the foregoing airspace or air routes.
- (b) No foreign military aircraft shall engage in overflight across the airspace or air routes specified in subsection (a) of this section except with the authorization of the Government of Maldives. Except as provided above, no military aircraft shall enter the foregoing airspace or air routes.

Rights under international law

16. In addition to matters provided in this Act, Maldives shall enjoy in relation to its maritime zones all other rights and jurisdiction States enjoy under international law as regards maritime zones.

Regulations

17. The Government of Maldives has the jurisdiction to adopt regulations in respect of the maritime zones of Maldives and airspace thereabove.

Definitions

18. In this Act:

- (a) *Archipelagic baseline* shall mean the lines established in accordance with the coordinates specified in Schedule 1 to this Act;
- (b) *Nautical mile* shall mean the international nautical mile consisting of 1852 metres;
- (c) *Warships* shall mean naval vessels and vessels of such description that could be engaged in warfare due to the weapons on board such vessels;
- (d) *Military aircraft* shall mean air force aeroplanes of such description that could be engaged in warfare due to the weapons on board such planes.

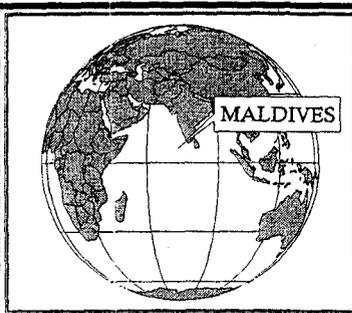
Repeal

19. Law No. 30/76 (Law relating to the exclusive economic zone of Maldives) and Law No. 32/76 (Law relating to the navigation and passage by foreign ships and aircraft through the airspace, territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Maldives) shall be repealed upon this Act taking effect.

SCHEDULE 1

Archipelagic base points of Maldives

Serial No.	Point code	Latitude	Longitude
1.	B1	72° 47' 45" E	07° 03' 54" N
2.	B2	72° 48' 07" E	07° 04' 35" N
3.	B3	72° 48' 21" E	07° 04' 47" N
4.	B4	72° 50' 34" E	07° 05' 44" N
5.	B5	72° 53' 50" E	07° 06' 35" N
6.	B6	72° 54' 13" E	07° 06' 35" N
7.	B7	73° 12' 46" E	06° 58' 07" N
8.	B8	73° 13' 14" E	06° 57' 37" N
9.	B9	73° 13' 53" E	06° 55' 31" N
10.	B10	73° 38' 20" E	05° 23' 20" N
11.	B11	73° 39' 31" E	05° 22' 05" N
12.	B12	73° 43' 21" E	04° 27' 28" N
13.	B13	73° 46' 13" E	03° 27' 27" N
14.	B14	73° 35' 10" E	02° 08' 04" N
15.	B15	73° 35' 18" E	00° 25' 51" N
16.	B16	73° 26' 37" E	00° 18' 25" N
17.	B17	73° 13' 07" E	00° 39' 45" S
18.	B18	73° 11' 12" E	00° 41' 30" S
19.	B19	73° 10' 02" E	00° 42' 22" S
20.	B20	73° 09' 08" E	00° 42' 24" S
21.	B21	73° 08' 40" E	00° 42' 11" S
22.	B22	73° 07' 30" E	00° 41' 13" S
23.	B23	73° 06' 52" E	00° 40' 23" S
24.	B24	73° 06' 23" E	00° 39' 18" S
25.	B25	73° 04' 33" E	00° 35' 33" S
26.	B26	73° 00' 08" E	00° 23' 55" N
27.	B27	73° 59' 09" E	00° 29' 21" N
28.	B28	72° 59' 38" E	00° 32' 22" N
29.	B29	72° 53' 05" E	02° 25' 09" N
30.	B30	72° 49' 14" E	02° 47' 50" N
31.	B31	72° 41' 49" E	03° 37' 38" N
32.	B32	72° 41' 49" E	03° 47' 09" N
33.	B33	72° 42' 03" E	03° 52' 15" N
34.	B34	72° 42' 11" E	04° 01' 50" N
35.	B35	72° 42' 36" E	04° 05' 13" N
36.	B36	72° 44' 14" E	04° 13' 46" N
37.	B37	72° 33' 19" E	06° 14' 12" N



Laccadive Islands

The boundaries, maritime limits, names and designation shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

INDIA

Nine Degree Channel

Minicoy Island

Eight Degree Channel

Arabian Sea

Ihavandiffulu Atoll

Tiladummati Atoll

Makunudu Atoll

Miladummadulu Atoll

North Malosmadulu Atoll

Fadiffolu Atoll

South Malosmadulu Atoll

Kardiva Channel

Horsburgh Atoll

Male Atoll

MALDIVES

Ari Atoll

South Male Atoll

North Nilandu Atoll

Felidu Atoll

South Nilandu Atoll

Mulaku Atoll

Kolumadulu Atoll

Veimandu Channel

One and a Half Degree Channel

Haddummati Atoll

Suvadiva Atoll

Equatorial Channel

Addu Atoll

Archipelagic baselines illustrated on this map are based on the list of geographical coordinates as contained in Schedule 1 of Maritime Zones of Maldives, Act No. 6/96.

**MALDIVES
Maritime Claims**

Legend

— Archipelagic baselines

Projection: Mercator
Datum: WGS84
Scale at the Equator: 1 : 7 000 000