

(e) Act of 27 June 2003 No. 57 relating to Norway's territorial waters and contiguous zone

§ 1. *Territorial waters and the baselines*

Norway's territorial waters consist of the territorial sea and internal waters.

The baselines form the outer limits of the internal waters and serve as a basis for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea and the jurisdictional areas beyond in accordance with international law.

The King prescribes baselines by regulation. In cases where the baseline is not prescribed by regulation, it is to follow the low-water line along the coast.

§ 2. *The territorial sea*

The territorial sea comprises the maritime areas from the baselines to a distance of 12 nautical miles therefrom. The outer limit of the territorial sea is defined as the line every point of which is at a distance of 12 nautical miles (22 224 metres) from the nearest point of the baseline. The delimitation of Norway's territorial sea in relation to another State is governed by agreement in force with that State.

Foreign vessels enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea, including the right to stop and anchor in the territorial sea in so far as this is rendered necessary by force majeure or distress, or for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress. Innocent passage means navigation through the territorial sea, either for the purpose of traversing that sea or of proceeding to or from Norwegian internal waters.

The King may prescribe further rules concerning foreign vessels entering into and passing through the territorial sea.

§ 3. *Internal waters*

The internal waters comprise all waters landward of the baselines.

The King may prescribe rules concerning the entry of foreign vessels into Norwegian internal waters.

§ 4. *Contiguous zone*

A contiguous zone shall be established beyond the territorial sea. The King determines the date on which the contiguous zone is to be established and the maritime areas it is to comprise.

Within the contiguous zone, control may be exercised to prevent and punish infringement of customs, fiscal, immigration and sanitary laws and regulations. The contiguous zone is adjacent to the territorial sea and its outer limit is defined as the line every point of which is at a distance of 24 nautical miles (44 448 metres) from the nearest point of the baseline.

Legislation on the removal of objects of an archaeological or historical nature applying to the territorial sea is also applicable to the contiguous zone.

The delimitation of Norway's contiguous zone in relation to another State's jurisdictional areas is governed by agreement with that State. In the absence of such agreement, the line of delimitation will follow the median line in relation to that State.

The King may prescribe further rules on the establishment of the contiguous zone and the exercise of control therein.

The establishment of the contiguous zone does not entail any changes to the rules governing the economic zone or the continental shelf.

§ 5. *Geographical scope of the Act*

The Act also applies to Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Bouvet Island, Peter I's Island and Queen Maud's Land.

§ 6. *Publication*

The King will duly publicise the limits of the territorial sea and the contiguous zone in accordance with international law.

§ 7. *Entry into force*

This Act enters into force as of the date decided by the King. The King may decide on later entry into force for Bouvet Island, Peter I's Island and Queen Maud's Land.

§ 8. *Amendments to other legislation*

1. The Royal Decree of 22 February 1812, reproduced in Government Decree (Cancelli- Promemoria) of 25 February 1812, is repealed.

Consequential adjustments have been made in the following Acts:

- Act of 17 June 1966 No. 19 relating to Norway's fishery limit and to the prohibition against fishing etc by foreign nationals within the fishery limit
- Act of 17 December 1976 No. 91 relating to the economic zone of Norway
- Act of 13 June 1996 No. 42 relating to the Norwegian Coast Guard