

CROATIA, REPUBLIC OF

As one of the nations created by the break-up of the Former Yugoslavia, maritime boundary agreements entered into by Yugoslavia are considered to be still in force unless repudiated or amended by Croatia. Croatia declared independence in 1991.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Jan 1994	Maritime Code *	12nm	<p>Purports to require 24 hours advance notice for a foreign warship to exercise the right of innocent passage (article 23). Purports to prohibit more than three foreign warships from exercising the right of innocent passage at the same time (article 27). Purports to require warships, tankers, nuclear-powered ships, and ships carrying dangerous chemicals or noxious materials to use prescribed lanes, observe traffic separation schemes, and satisfy any other prescribed conditions regarding the safety of navigation and prevention of pollution while exercising the right of innocent passage (article 28).</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize preconditions for innocent passage.</i> The U.S. protested the prior notification claim in CY 2020, and conducted operational assertions in FY 1998, 2001, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2022.</p> <p>On 4 Feb 2020, Croatia delivered Note Verbale No. 591/KM/2020 to the U.S. protesting the innocent passage of the USNS Carson City without prior notification. See Digest of United States Practice in International Law 2020, page 480, for the U.S. reply to Croatia.</p>
	Apr 1995	Declaration upon Ratification of LOS Convention		<p>Declared there is no peremptory norm of general international law which forbids a coastal State to request by its laws and regulations foreign warships to notify their intention of innocent passage, and to limit the number of warships allowed to exercise the right of innocent passage at the same time.</p>
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 1994	Maritime Code		<p>Declared normal and straight baselines; adopted the straight baselines designated by the Former Yugoslavia. (See LIS No. 6 for U.S. analysis of the Yugoslavian baselines and a map.)</p>
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jan 1994	Maritime Code		<p>Outer limits "up to the boundary lines of the continental shelf of neighbouring countries." Accepts the continental shelf boundary established by the 1968 Agreement between Italy and the Former Yugoslavia.</p>
EEZ	Jan 1994	Maritime Code		<p>Enabling legislation to declare an EEZ, to the "outer limit permitted by general international law."</p>

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
EEZ, Continued	Sep 2005	M.Z.N.55.2005.LOS		Deposited a list of coordinates defining the outer limit of the ecological and fisheries protection zone. Points are "provisional," pending agreements with neighboring States. The UN received communications from Slovenia, Italy and Montenegro regarding these coordinates.
	Feb 2021	Decision on Proclamation of the EEZ in the Adriatic		Declared an EEZ, "to the maximum limit allowed under general international law." Pending agreements with neighboring States, the outer limit of the EEZ temporarily follows continental shelf boundaries established under the 1968 Agreement between Yugoslavia and Italy and the provisional delimitation as defined in the 2002 Protocol on the Interim Regime along the Southern Border with Serbia and Montenegro. (Repealed the Decision on Extension of Jurisdiction in the Adriatic of Oct 2003 which established an "ecological and fisheries protection zone;" the outer limits of this zone were the same as described above.)
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Jan 1968	Agreement with Italy		Continental shelf boundary agreement between Italy and the Former Yugoslavia signed; EIF Jan 1970. (See LIS No. 9 for U.S. analysis and map.) In Jul 2005, Italy and Croatia signed the Accurate Determination of the Delimitation Line of the Continental Shelf ("Technical Adjustment Agreement"); EIF Aug 2005.
	Jul 1999	Treaty with Bosnia and Herzegovina		Treaty on land and maritime boundaries signed and EIF.
	Jun 2017	PCA Award		In Nov 2009, Croatia and Slovenia agreed to submit their territorial and maritime dispute to arbitration. On 29 Jun 2017, the Permanent Court of Arbitration rendered a Final Award determining the maritime and land boundary, Slovenia's junction to the high seas, and the regime for the use of the relevant maritime areas.
	Feb 2018	Note Verbale No. 016/18		Note Verbale from Slovenia to the UN acknowledging PCA Award of Jun 2017 which established the maritime and land boundary between Croatia and Slovenia.
	May 2022	Agreement with Italy		Maritime boundary agreement (EEZ) signed. Italy and Croatia agreed the EEZ boundary coincides with the continental shelf boundary established in the 1968 Agreement, and the 2005 Agreement on Accurate Determination of the Delimitation Line of the Continental Shelf ("Technical Adjustment Agreement") signed Jul 2005; EIF Aug 2005.
LOS CONVENTION	Apr 1995			Succeeded to Convention, with Declaration . Bound by Part XI Agreement.

*Note: The Maritime Code has been amended several times (see [UN FAOLEX](#) Database), but English language versions are not available.