

FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND DEPENDENCIES

Overseas France consists of 13 French-administered territories outside Europe: French Guiana in South America; Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin, and Saint-Barthélemy in the Caribbean Sea; Mayotte and Réunion in the Indian Ocean; French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and Clipperton Island in the Pacific Ocean; Saint-Pierre and Miquelon in the Atlantic Ocean; and the Southern and Antarctic Lands.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Dec 1971	Law No. 71-1060 on Delimitation of Territorial Waters	12nm	Baselines consist of low-water line and straight baselines. Applies to overseas regions. Repealed and replaced by Ordinance No. 2016-1687 Relating to Maritime Areas under the Sovereignty or Jurisdiction of France.
	Feb 1985	Decree No. 85/185		Foreign ships shall enjoy the right of innocent passage. Applies to overseas regions. Tankers, nuclear powered ships, and ships carrying nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances or materials may be required to use designated sea lanes/traffic separation schemes.
	May 2011	M.Z.N.81.2011.LOS		Deposit of charts depicting the baselines and outer limits of the TTS of New Caledonia.
	May 2015	Decree No. 2015-550		Baselines for Clipperton Island are the low-water line located on the outer limits of the reef. In Sep 2016, the UN received a Note Verbale from Mexico regarding this Decree stating that Mexico retains all rights in the zone that may accrue to it under international law.
	May 2015	Decree No. 2015-551		Promulgates baselines (low-water lines) for Crozet Archipelago (French Southern and Antarctic Lands).
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-366	12nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of Crozet Archipelago (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-367	12nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). Amends Decree No. 2013-1175 . M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-368		Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of the Kerguelen Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA, Continued	Jan 2018	Decree No. 2018-23	12nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of Clipperton Island. M.Z.N.142.2019.LOS of 26 Feb 2019 deposited a chart .
	Jan 2018	Decree No. 2018-24	12nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of Reunion Island.
	Apr 2019	Decree No. 2019-320	12nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the TTS of Wallis and Futuna Islands.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Sep 1977	Decree No. 77-1068		Straight baselines for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.
	May 2002	Decree No. 2002-827		See LOS Bulletin No. 53 , page 58, for text of Decree and map; promulgates coordinates for straight baselines for New Caledonia.
	Dec 2013	Decrees regarding baselines		Decree No. 2013-1175 promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). Amended by Decree No. 2017-367 . Decree No. 2013-1176 (page 4) promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for Wallis and Futuna Islands. Decree No. 2013-1177 (page 7) promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for Mayotte Archipelago. Repealed Decree No. 77-1067 of Sep 1977 and replaced the straight baselines contained therein.
	Oct 2014	Decree No. 2014-1309		Promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for Reunion Island.
	Jun 2015	Decree No. 2015-635		Promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for Kerguelen Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). Repealed Decree No. 78-112 of Jan 1978 and replaced the straight baselines contained therein.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS, Continued	Oct 2017	Decree No. 2017-1511		<p>Promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for French Antilles (Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint-Barthelemy and Saint-Martin). Refers to the 2015 maritime boundary agreement with the Netherlands. Repealed Decree No. 99-324 of Apr 1999 and replaced the straight baselines contained therein.</p> <p>Amends Decree No. 2015-1180 of Sep 2015 defining the outer limits of the CS for Martinique and Guadeloupe.</p> <p>The UN received communications from France (see LOS Bulletin No. 96, page 32) and the Netherlands concerning a boundary dispute regarding the Bay of Étang aux Huîtres on Saint-Martin/Sint Maarten.</p>
	Apr 2019	Decree No. 2019-319		<p>Promulgates coordinates for straight and low-water baselines for French Polynesia. Repealed Decree No. 2012-1068 of 2012 and replaced the baselines contained therein.</p>
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Dec 1987	Act of 31 December 1987	24nm	<p>"Act Concerning the Campaign against Drug Trafficking and Amending Certain Provisions of the Penal Code." Article 44 established a CZ.</p>
	Dec 1989	Act No. 89-874 concerning Maritime Cultural Assets		<p>"Maritime cultural assets shall comprise deposits, wrecks, artefacts [sic] or in general all assets of prehistoric, archaeological or historical interest which are situated in the maritime public domain or on the seabed in the contiguous zone." Amended the 1941 Act Regulating Archaeological Excavations. Applies to Mayotte. The terms of implementation of this Act shall be established by decree.</p>
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Dec 1968	Act No. 68-1181 relating to the Exploration of the CS and the Exploitation of its Natural Resources	1958 DEF	<p>Amended by Act No. 77-485. Applied to overseas regions. Repealed by Ordinance No. 2016-1687 Relating to Maritime Areas under the Sovereignty or Jurisdiction of France.</p>
	May 2007	ECS Submission		<p>Submitted information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of French Guiana and New Caledonia. The CLCS made its recommendations in Sep 2009.</p> <p>The UN received communications from Vanuatu, France, New Zealand, and Suriname regarding this submission.</p>

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
CONTINENTAL SHELF, Continued	Feb 2009	ECS Submission		Submitted information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of the French Antilles (Martinique and Guadeloupe) and Keruguelen Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). The CLCS made its recommendations in Apr 2012. The UN received communications from France, the Netherlands, and Japan regarding this submission.
	May 2009	ECS Submission		Joint submission by France and South Africa to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of the Crozet Archipelago (French Southern and Antarctic Lands) and Prince Edward Islands. In Mar 2013, the countries submitted an addendum extending the area under consideration. In Feb 2018, the parties sent a letter to the CLCS requesting clarity regarding the deliberation process. The CLCS has not yet made its recommendations.
	May 2009	ECS Submission		Submitted information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of Reunion Island and Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). The CLCS made its recommendations in Mar 2020.
	May 2009	Preliminary Information (French only)		Submitted preliminary information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna Islands.
	May 2009	Preliminary Information (French only)		Submitted preliminary information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. In a Note Verbale of 9 Nov 2009, Canada rejected any French claim beyond that awarded to it by the PCA in the June 1992 Case concerning Delimitation of Maritime Areas between Canada and France.
	Dec 2012	ECS Submission		Joint submission by France, Tuvalu, and New Zealand to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of the Robbie Ridge. The CLCS has not yet made its recommendations.
	Dec 2016	Ordinance No. 2016-1687		CS extends to CM or 200nm; outer limits may extend beyond 200nm under the conditions provided for by the LOS Convention. Repealed Law No. 68-1181 of Dec 1968; Law No. 71-1060 of Dec 1971; and Law No. 76-655 of Jul 1976. Title V enumerates which provisions of the law apply to which French overseas regions.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
CONTINENTAL SHELF, Continued	Apr 2018	ECS Submission		Submitted information to the CLCS regarding the limits of the CS beyond 200nm in the area of French Polynesia. The CLCS has not yet made its recommendations.
EEZ	Jul 1976	Law No. 76-655	200nm	The provisions of Law No. 68-1181 Relating to the Exploration of the CS and the Exploitation of its Natural Resources shall apply, with the exception of Article 1, to the seabed and subsoil of the EEZ. Article 5 provides that entry into force of this law for French overseas regions is to be determined by decree. Repealed by Ordinance No. 2016-1687 .
	Feb 1977	Decrees: No. 77-169 No. 77-170	200nm	Defined EEZs for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, and for French Guiana.
	Feb 1978	Decree No. 78-144		Established EEZ (per Article 5 of Law No. 76-655) for French Southern and Antarctic Territories.
	Feb 1978	Decree No. 78-146	200nm	See LOS Bulletin No. 71 , page 16, for text of Decree; established EEZs (per Article 5 of Law No. 76-655) for Tromelin, Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India (the "Scattered Islands in the Indian Ocean"). Included coordinates and a map depicting a joint EEZ for Tromelin and Reunion Islands. M.Z.N.74.2009.LOS of 18 Dec 2009 publicized the Decree. Ownership of Tromelin Island is disputed by Mauritius (see Note Verbale No. 11131/11 of 2011) and France (see LOS Bulletin No. 71 , page 44).
	Feb 1978	Decree No. 78-147		See LOS Bulletin No. 74 , page 63, for text of law; established EEZ (per Article 5 of Law No. 76-655) for Clipperton Island; included coordinates and map. Repealed by Decree No. 2018-23 . In May 2012, the UN received a Note Verbale from Mexico regarding this Decree stating that Mexico retains all rights in the zone that may accrue to it under international law.
	Feb 1978	Decree No. 78-148		Established EEZ (per Article 5 of Law No. 76-655) for Reunion Island.
	Mar 1978	Decrees: No. 78-276 No. 78-277		Defined EEZs for Guadeloupe and Martinique.
	May 2011	M.Z.N.81.2011.LOS		Deposit of charts depicting the outer limits of the EEZ of New Caledonia.

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EEZ, Continued	Jul 2012	M.Z.N.86.2012.LOS		Deposit of four charts showing the outer limits of the EEZ of the Eparses Islands (part of the "Scattered Islands in the Indian Ocean"), Mayotte, Reunion Island, and Tromelin Island.
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-366	200nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the EEZ of Crozet Archipelago (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-367	200nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the EEZ of Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .
	Mar 2017	Decree No. 2017-368	200nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the EEZ of Kerguelen Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands). Includes the maritime boundary as defined by the 1982 Agreement with Australia. Amends Decree No. 2015-1183 of Sep 2015 defining the outer limits of the CS of Kerguelen Islands. M.Z.N.128.2017.LOS of 25 Aug 2017 deposited a chart .
	Jan 2018	Decree No. 2018-23	200nm	Promulgates coordinates for outer limits of the EEZ of Clipperton Island. M.Z.N.142.2019.LOS of 26 Feb 2019 deposited a chart .
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Mar 1972	Agreement with Canada		Agreement delimiting the TTS and fishing zones between France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon) and Canada (Newfoundland) signed and EIF. (See LIS No. 57 for U.S. analysis and chart.)
	Jan 1980	Agreement with Tonga		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Wallis and Futuna Islands) and Tonga signed and EIF.
	Apr 1980	Agreement with Mauritius		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Reunion Island) and Mauritius signed and EIF. (See LIS No. 95 for U.S. analysis and chart.)
	Jul 1980	Agreement with Venezuela		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Guadeloupe and Martinique) and Venezuela signed; EIF Jan 1983.
	Jan 1981	Agreement with Brazil		Maritime boundary agreement between France (French Guiana) and Brazil signed; EIF Oct 1983.
	Mar 1981	Agreement with St. Lucia		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Martinique) and St. Lucia signed and EIF.
	Jan 1982	Agreement with Australia		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Kerguelen, New Caledonia, and Chesterfield Islands) and Australia (Norfolk, Heard, and McDonald Islands) signed; EIF Jan 1983.

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MARITIME BOUNDARIES, Continued	Jan 1983	Agreement with Fiji		Maritime boundary (EEZ) agreement between France (New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna Islands) and Fiji signed; EIF Aug 1984. A Codicil of Nov 1990 modified the boundary regarding Wallis and Futuna Islands.
	Oct 1983	Agreement with UK		Maritime boundary (EEZ/fishing zone) agreement between France (Tuamotu Archipelago, part of French Polynesia) and the UK (Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands) signed; EIF Apr 1984. In Dec 1992 and Jan 1993, France and the UK signed an Exchange of Notes constituting a boundary agreement (EIF Feb 1993) which maintained the 1983 boundary but recognized that the UK had created an EEZ around the Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands within the same limits as the fishing zone.
	Nov 1985	Agreement with Tuvalu		Exchange of Notes constituting an agreement concerning provisional maritime delimitation between France (Wallis and Futuna Islands) and Tuvalu signed and EIF. Provisionally declares equidistant line as boundary.
	Sep 1987	Agreement with Dominica		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Martinique and Guadeloupe) and Dominica signed; EIF Dec 1988.
	Aug 1990	Agreement with Cook Islands		Maritime boundary agreement between France (French Polynesia) and the Cook Islands signed and EIF.
	Nov 1990	Agreement with Solomon Islands		Maritime boundary agreement between France (New Caledonia) and the Solomon Islands signed and EIF.
	Jun 1992	PCA Award (Canada and France)		In the Case concerning Delimitation of Maritime Areas (page 191) between Canada (Newfoundland) and France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) decided on the maritime boundary in areas that were not delimited in the 1972 Agreement.
	Jun 1996	Agreement with UK		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy) and the UK (Anguilla) signed; EIF Jan 1997.
	Jun 1996	Agreement with UK		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Guadeloupe) and the UK (Montserrat) signed; EIF Jan 1997.
	Feb 2001	Agreement with Seychelles		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Glorioso Islands) and Seychelles (Assumption and Astove Islands) signed and EIF.

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MARITIME BOUNDARIES, Continued	May 2003	Agreement with New Zealand		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Wallis and Futuna Islands) and New Zealand (Tokelau) signed; EIF Nov 2003.
	Apr 2005	Agreement with Madagascar		Maritime boundary (EEZ) agreement between France (Reunion Island) and Madagascar signed; EIF Jun 2007.
	Oct 2009	Agreement with Barbados (page 163)		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Guadeloupe and Martinique) and Barbados signed; EIF Jan 2010.
	Apr 2016	Agreement with the Netherlands		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy) and the Netherlands (Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius) in the Caribbean signed; EIF Apr 2017.
	Mar 2017	Agreement with Antigua and Barbuda		Maritime boundary agreement between France (Saint-Barthelemy and Guadeloupe) and Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean region signed; EIF Oct 2018. Agreement was publicized by Decree No. 2019-273 of Apr 2019 which included a map of the boundary.
	Nov 2017	Agreement with Suriname (English version page 12)		Maritime boundary agreement between France (French Guiana) and Suriname signed; EIF Dec 2018. Agreement was publicized by Decree No. 2018-1157 of Dec 2018 which included a map of the boundary.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 1982			France signed Convention, with Declaration .
	Jul 1994			France signed Part XI Agreement.
	Apr 1996			France ratified Convention and Part XI Agreement, with Declaration .