

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	May 1993	Act on the Marine Areas in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993	12nm	<p>Claimed that waters between islands, where the distance of such islands does not exceed 24nm, form part of the internal waters. Claimed to require prior authorization for innocent passage of "warships, submarines, nuclear-powered ships and vessels or any other floating objects or vessels carrying nuclear or other dangerous or noxious substances harmful to the environment".</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize these claims.</i> The U.S. protested these claims in CY 1983, 1987, and 1994; and conducted operational assertions against the prior authorization claim in FY 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996-1999, and 2011. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis of this law and for text of 1994 U.S. protest letter. See LIS No. 112 for history of U.S. protests.)</p> <p>Iran responded to the 1994 U.S. protest in Note Verbale No. 224 of 24 May 1994 (see LOS Bulletin No. 26, page 35).</p>
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jul 1973	Decree Law No. 2/250-67		<p>Promulgated coordinates for straight baselines from which to measure the TTS and CZ. Described normal baselines: "Between points 6 and 7, situated on Kish Island, points 11 and 12, situated on Larak Island, and points 14 and 15, situated in the Strait of Hormuz, the low-water line shall constitute the baseline."</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize the straight baseline claim.</i> (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis and text of 1994 U.S. protest to this claim.)</p>
	May 1993	Act on the Marine Areas in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993		<p>Reaffirmed the baselines in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea as contained in Decree Law No. 2/250-67 of Jul 1973; in other areas and islands, the low-water line along the coast constitutes the baseline.</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize this straight baseline claim.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1994; and conducted operational assertions in FY 1996-2000, 2004, 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2019. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis and text of 1994 U.S. protest to this claim.)</p> <p>Iran responded to the 1994 U.S. protest in Note Verbale No. 224 of 24 May 1994 (see LOS Bulletin No. 26, page 35).</p>

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CONTIGUOUS ZONE	May 1993	Act on the Marine Areas in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993	24nm	<p>Claims authority to prevent infringement of security, maritime, and environmental laws and regulations.</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1994. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis and text of 1994 U.S. protest letter.)</p> <p>Iran responded to the 1994 U.S. protest in Note Verbale No. 224 of 24 May 1994 (see LOS Bulletin No. 26, page 35).</p>
CONTINENTAL SHELF	May 1993	Act on the Marine Areas in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993	CM	<p>Limits of the CS by agreement with neighboring States or by equidistance.</p> <p>Claims provisions related to the EEZ also apply to the CS, including the right to adopt laws and regulations regarding: the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, the establishment of security zones, and any kind of research. Claims to prohibit foreign military "activities and practices, collection of information and any other activity inconsistent with the rights and interests" of Iran in the EEZ and the CS.</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize these claims.</i> The U.S. protested these claims in CY 1994; and conducted an operational assertion against the military activities prohibition in FY 2022. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis and for text of 1994 U.S. protest letter.)</p> <p>Iran responded to the 1994 U.S. protest in Note Verbale No. 224 of 24 May 1994 (see LOS Bulletin No. 26, page 35).</p>
EEZ	May 1993	Act on the Marine Areas in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993		<p>Limits of the EEZ by agreement with neighboring States or by equidistance.</p> <p>Claims the right to adopt laws and regulations regarding: the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, the establishment of security zones, and any kind of research. Claims to prohibit foreign military "activities and practices, collection of information and any other activity inconsistent with the rights and interests" of Iran in the EEZ and the CS.</p> <p><i>The U.S. does not recognize these claims.</i> The U.S. protested these claims in CY 1994; and conducted operational assertions against the military activities prohibition in FY 2011-2022. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis and for text of 1994 U.S. protest letter.)</p> <p>Iran responded to the 1994 U.S. protest in Note Verbale No. 224 of 24 May 1994 (see LOS Bulletin No. 26, page 35).</p>

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MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Oct 1968	Agreement with Saudi Arabia		Maritime boundary agreement with Saudi Arabia and sovereignty over the islands of Al-'Arabiyah and Farsi signed; EIF Jan 1969. (See LIS No. 24 and LIS No. 94 for U.S. analysis.)
	Sep 1969	Agreement with Qatar		Maritime boundary agreement (CS) with Qatar signed; EIF May 1970. (See LIS No. 25 and LIS No. 94 for U.S. analysis.)
	Jun 1971	Agreement with Bahrain		Maritime boundary agreement (CS) with Bahrain signed; EIF May 1972. (See LIS No. 58 and LIS No. 94 for U.S. analysis.)
	Jul 1974	Agreement with Oman		Maritime boundary agreement (CS) with Oman in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz signed; EIF May 1975. (See LIS No. 67 and LIS No. 94 for U.S. analysis.)
	Aug 1974	Agreement with United Arab Emirates (UAE)		Maritime boundary agreement (CS) with UAE (Dubai) signed. See LIS No. 63 for text of agreement and U.S. analysis; see LIS No. 94 for U.S. analysis.
	Aug 1975	Agreement with Iraq (page 136)		Agreement with Iraq concerning the Shatt al 'Arab Waterway (Algiers Agreement, 1975) signed; EIF Jun 1976.
	May 2015	Agreement with Oman		Maritime boundary agreement with Oman in the Sea of Oman signed; EIF Sep 2016. The UAE protested certain parts of this boundary to the UN in a Note Verbale of 7 Oct 2017.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 1982			Signed Convention, with Declaration claiming "only parties to the Convention shall be entitled to benefit from the contractual rights created therein." Claimed to limit the right of transit passage in the Strait of Hormuz to signatories of the LOS Convention. Claimed the right to require authorization for warships to conduct innocent passage. (See LIS No. 114 for U.S. analysis of Declaration and for text of 1994 U.S. protest letter. See LIS No. 36 and LIS No. 112 for history of U.S. protests.) <i>The U.S. does not recognize claims to restrictions on transit passage.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1983, 1987, and 1994; and conducted operational assertions in FY 2005-2022. <i>The U.S. does not recognize claims to preconditions for innocent passage.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1983, 1987, and 1994; and conducted operational assertions in FY 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996-1999, and 2011.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the above, there are 32 Notes Verbale linked on the [UN Maritime Space: Maritime Zones and Maritime Delimitation website](#), from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE, UK, U.S., and Iraq, disputing CS boundaries and interference with drilling operations, ship boarding in

the Strait of Hormuz, attacks on tankers and a U.S. drone, and a dispute concerning sovereignty over certain islands. These include a letter of 27 Jun 2019 from the U.S. ([S/2019/536](#)) regarding a drone which was shot down, and the [reply letter](#) from Iran; and a letter of 6 Jan 2017 from the UAE ([S/2017/17](#)) regarding their dispute with Iran over sovereignty of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa islands.

Additional Notes Verbale, prior to 2011, can be found in UN LOS Bulletins:

Germany, on behalf of the EU, protested Iran's 1993 maritime law in a Note Verbale of 11 Sep 1995 ([LOS Bulletin No. 30](#), page 60). Iran responded to this protest in Note Verbale No. 641/1206 of 3 May 1995 ([LOS Bulletin No. 31](#), page 37).

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE protested Iran's 1993 maritime law ([LOS Bulletin No. 32](#), pages 89-91); UAE's protest also disputes Iran's claim to sovereignty over Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa islands. Iran responded to the protests from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE ([LOS Bulletin No. 33](#), pages 86-89).

Bahrain sent a letter of 4 Nov 1996 protesting Iran's 1993 maritime law ([LOS Bulletin No. 33](#), page 83).

The UAE sent a letter of 2 Jan 1997 protesting Iranian "acts of piracy" against UAE fishing boats ([LOS Bulletin No. 33](#), page 91).

Iran sent a letter of 3 Jul 1997 (via Pakistan) to the U.S. regarding a 17 Apr 1997 shooting incident ([LOS Bulletin No. 35](#), page 103).

The U.S. sent a letter of 6 Apr 2000 ([LOS Bulletin No. 43](#), page 105) responding to Iran's letter of 30 Nov 1999 (page 107); the U.S. also "renewed its protests of 1994" with respect to multiple excessive maritime claims by Iran.