

Law on the Territorial Sea (Law No. 30 of 2 May 1977)

Extent of the territorial sea

Article 1

1. The territorial sea of Japan comprises the areas of the sea extending from the baseline to the line twelve nautical miles seaward thereof. Provided that, where any part of that line as measured from the baseline lies beyond the median line, the median line (or the line which may be agreed upon between Japan and a foreign country as a substitute for the median line) shall be substituted for that part of the line.
2. The median line referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be the line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest point on the baseline and the nearest point on the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea pertaining to the foreign coast which is opposite the coast of Japan is measured.

(Baseline)

Article 2

1. The baseline shall be the low-water line and the straight line drawn across the mouth of or within a bay, or across the mouth of a river. Provided that, with respect to the Seto Naikai, which is internal waters, the baseline shall be the lines prescribed by Cabinet Order as the boundaries with other areas of the sea adjacent thereto.
2. The criteria to be used when employing as the baseline the lines provided for in the main part of the preceding paragraph and any other matters necessary for the drawing of the baseline shall be prescribed by Cabinet Order.

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Supplementary provisions

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pertaining to the designated areas

2. For the time being, the provisions of Article 1 shall not apply to the Soya Strait, the Tsugaru Strait, the eastern channel of the Tsushima Strait, the western channel of the Tsushima Strait and the Osumi Strait (including areas of the sea which are adjacent to these waters and which are recognized as forming respectively integral parts thereof from the point of view of the course normally used for navigation by vessels; hereinafter referred to as "designated areas"). The territorial sea pertaining to the designated areas shall be respectively the areas of the sea extending from the baseline to the line three nautical miles seaward thereof and to the line drawn connecting with the said line.
3. The limits of the designated areas and the lines referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be prescribed by Cabinet Order.