

Royal Decree No. 33 of 16 February 1958

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Article 1

For the purposes of this Decree,

- (a) The term "nautical mile" is the equivalent of 1,852 metres;
- (b) The term "bay" includes any inlet, lagoon or other arm of the sea;
- (c) The term "island" includes any islet, reef, rock or permanent artificial structure not submerged at lowest low tide;
- (d) The term "shoal" denotes an area covered by shallow water, a part of which is not submerged at lowest low tide;
- (e) The term "coast" refers to the coasts of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Persian Gulf.

Article 2

The territorial sea of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the airspace above and the territorial seabed and the subsoil beneath are under the sovereignty of the Kingdom, subject to the established rules of international law.

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Article 4

The territorial sea of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lies outside the inland waters of the Kingdom and extends seaward for a distance of twelve nautical miles.

Article 5

The following are the baselines from which the territorial sea of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is measured:

- (a) Where the mainland or the shore of an island is fully exposed to the open sea, the lowest low-water mark on the shore;
- (b) Where a bay confronts the open sea, lines drawn from headland to headland across the mouth of the bay;
- (c) Where a shoal is situated not more than twelve nautical miles from the mainland or from a Saudi Arabian island, lines drawn from the mainland or the island and along the outer edge of the shoal;
- (d) Where a port or harbour confronts the open sea, lines drawn along the seaward side of the outermost works of the port or harbour and between such works;
- (e) Where an island is not more than twelve nautical miles from the mainland, lines drawn from the mainland and along the outer shores of the island;

(f) Where there is an island group which may be connected by lines not more than twelve nautical mile long, of which the island nearest to the mainland is not more than twelve nautical miles from the mainland, lines drawn from the mainland and along the outer shores of all the islands of the group if the islands form a chain, or along the outer shores of the outermost islands of the group if the islands do not form a chain;

(g) Where there is an island group which may be connected by lines not more than twelve nautical miles long, lines drawn along the shore of all the islands of the group if the islands form a chain, or along the outer shores of the outermost islands of the group if the islands do not form a chain.

Article 6

If the measurement of the territorial sea in accordance with the provisions of this decree leaves an area of high sea wholly surrounded by the territorial sea and extending not more than twelve nautical miles in any direction, such area shall form part of the territorial sea. The same rule shall apply to a pronounced pocket of high sea which may be wholly enclosed by drawing a single straight line not more than twelve nautical miles long.

Article 7

If the territorial sea measured from the baselines fixed by article 5 of the decree be overlapped by the waters of another State, boundaries will be determined by our Government in agreement with that State in accordance with equitable principles.

Article 8

To assure compliance with the laws of the Kingdom relating to security, navigation, fiscal and sanitary matters, maritime surveillance covers a contiguous zone outside the territorial sea, extending for a distance of six nautical miles in addition to the twelve nautical miles measured form the baselines of the territorial sea, in accordance with article 5 of this decree.

Article 9

The provisions of this decree shall not affect the rights of the Kingdom with respect to fishing.

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