

**The Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act, Act No. 30 of 23 October 1978,
as amended by Act No. 19 of 1989**

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as The Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1978 (Amendment) Act, 1989.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the King in Privy Council.

...

Interpretation

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Bay" means an indentation of the coast such that its area is not less than that of the semicircle whose diameter is a line drawn across the mouth of the indentation (for the purposes of which definition:

(a) The area of an indentation shall be taken to be the area bounded by the low-water mark around the shore of the indentation and the straight line joining the low-water marks of its natural entrance points; and

(b) Where, because of the presence of islands, an indentation has more than one mouth, the length of the diameter of the semicircle referred to shall be the sum of the lengths of the straight lines drawn across each of the mouths; and

(c) In calculating the area of an indentation, the area of any islands lying within it shall be treated as part of the area of the indentation);

...

"International agreement" means any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention or agreement, to which Tonga is a party, and concluded by the Government of Tonga and the Government of any other country;

"Island" means a naturally formed area of land that is surrounded by and above water at mean high-water spring tides;

...

"Low-tide elevation" means a naturally formed area of land that is surrounded by and above water at mean low-water spring tides but is submerged at mean high-water spring tides;

"Median line", as between Tonga and any other country, means a line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points of the baseline of the territorial sea of Tonga and the corresponding baseline of that other country;

"Nautical mile" means the international nautical mile of 1,852 metres;

...

"Prescribed" means prescribed by regulations under this Act;

...

(2) For the purposes of this Act, permanent harbour works that form an integral part of a harbour system shall be treated as forming part of the coast.

PART I THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF TONGA

The territorial sea

3. The territorial sea of Tonga comprises those areas of the sea having, as their inner limits, the baseline described in sections 5 and 6 of this Act and, as their outer limits, a line measured seaward from that baseline, every point of which line is distant 12 nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline.

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Baseline of territorial sea

5. (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 6 of this Act, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Tonga is measured shall be:

(a) In the case of islands situated on atolls or of islands having fringing reefs, the low-water mark along the seaward edge of the reef;

(b) In the case of islands not situated on atolls or of islands not having fringing reefs, the low-water mark along the coast of those islands.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a low-tide elevation that lies wholly or partly within the breadth of sea that would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth of the territorial sea shall be treated as an island.

Baseline of territorial sea adjacent to a bay

6. In the case of the sea adjacent to a bay, the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured:

(a) Where the bay has only one mouth and the distance between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of the bay does not exceed 24 nautical miles, shall be a straight line joining those low-water marks; and

(b) Where, because of the presence of islands, the bay has more than one mouth and the distances between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of each mouth added together do not exceed 24 nautical miles, shall be a series of straight lines across each of the mouths so as to join those low-water marks; and

(c) Where neither paragraph (a) nor paragraph (b) of this section applies, shall be a straight line 24 nautical miles in length drawn from low-water mark to low-water mark within the bay in such a manner as to enclose the maximum area of water that is possible with a line of that length.

Bed of territorial sea and internal waters vested in Crown

7. Subject to the grant of any estate or interest therein (whether by or pursuant to the provisions of any enactment or otherwise, and whether made before or after the commencement of this Act), the seabed and subsoil of submarine areas bounded on the landward side by the low-water mark along the coast of all islands of Tonga and on the seaward side by the outer limits of the territorial sea of Tonga shall be deemed to be and always to have been vested in the Crown.

Regulations for territorial sea

8. The King in Council may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

- (a) Regulating the conduct of scientific research within the territorial sea;
- (b) Prescribing measures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the territorial sea;
- (c) Regulating the construction, operation and use of artificial islands (whether permanent or temporary) and other installations and structures in the territorial sea, including the establishment of safety zones around such islands, installations, and structures;
- (d) Regulating the exploration and exploitation of the territorial sea for the production of energy from the water, currents and winds, and for any other economic purposes;
- (e) Providing for such other matters as are necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the sovereignty of Tonga in relation to the territorial sea;
- (f) Providing that a breach of any such regulations shall be a criminal offence, and imposing penalties by way of fine not exceeding \$10,000 for any such offences;
- (g) Providing for such other matters as are contemplated by or necessary for giving full effect to the provisions of this Part of this Act and for its due administration.

...

PART II
THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF TONGA

The exclusive economic zone

9. (1) The exclusive economic zone of Tonga comprises those areas of the sea, seabed, and subsoil that are beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea of Tonga, having as their outer limits a line measured seaward from the baseline described in Sections 5 and 6 of this Act, every point of which line is distant 200 nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where/-

(a) Any part of the median line between Tonga and any other country is less than 200 nautical miles from the nearest part of the baseline of the territorial sea of Tonga; and

(b) No other outer limit of the exclusive economic zone is for the time being determined by agreement with a neighbouring country or by an Order-in-Council made under subsection (3) of this section -

that part of the median line shall be an outer limit of the zone.

(3) For the purposes of implementing any international agreement, or the arbitral award of any international body, or the judgement of any international Court, or for any other purpose in accordance with international law, the King may from time to time, by Order-in Council, declare that the exclusive economic zone shall not extend to any specified area of the sea, seabed, or subsoil, that would otherwise be included within the exclusive economic zone by virtue of this section.

Calculation of total allowable catch

10. The Minister shall from time to time determine, in respect of every fishery within the exclusive economic zone, the total allowable catch.

Calculation of total allowable catch by foreign fishing craft

11. (1) The Minister shall from time to time determine, in respect of the total allowable catch for every fishery within the exclusive economic zone, the portion that Tongan fishing craft have the capacity to harvest.

(2) Where the Minister has determined, in respect of the total allowable catch for a fishery within the exclusive economic zone, the portion that Tongan fishing craft have the capacity to harvest, the remaining portion shall constitute the allowable catch for that fishery for foreign fishing craft.

Apportionment of allowable catch for foreign fishing craft

12. (1) The Minister may from time to time apportion, among countries other than Tonga, the allowable catch for foreign fishing craft in respect of any fishery within the exclusive economic zone, as determined under Section 11 of this Act.

(2) In making an apportionment under subsection (1) of this section, the Minister may take into account (inter alia) the following consideration:

(a) Whether the fishing craft of countries to which the apportionment applies have engaged habitually in fishing within the exclusive economic zone;

(b) Whether such countries have cooperated with Tonga in fisheries research and in the identification of fish stocks within the zone;

(c) Whether such countries have cooperated with Tonga in the conservation and management of fisheries resources within the zone, and in the enforcement of Tongan law relating to such resources;

(d) The terms of any relevant international agreement;

(e) Such other matters as the Minister, after consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, determines to be relevant.

Prohibition of operation of unauthorized foreign fishing craft in zone

13. No foreign fishing craft shall be used for fishing within the exclusive economic zone except in accordance with a licence issued by the Minister under Section 14 of this Act in respect of that fishing craft.

Grant of licences

14. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the Minister may grant and issue to the owner of any named foreign fishing craft a licence to fish within the exclusive economic zone.

(2) The Minister shall exercise the powers conferred on him by this section in such a manner as to ensure that:

(a) The catch that all foreign fishing craft licensed under this section are for the time being authorised to harvest from any fishery within the exclusive economic zone does not exceed the allowable catch for foreign fishing craft for that fishery as determined under Section 11 of this Act; and

(b) The catch that all foreign fishing craft of a particular country licensed under this section are for the time being authorized to harvest from any fishery within the zone does not exceed the apportionment made under Section 12 of this Act for that fishery in respect of that country.

(3) In granting a licence under this section, the Minister may attach to the licence conditions relating (inter alia) to all or any of the following matters:

(a) The areas within the exclusive economic zone in which fishing is authorised; and

(b) The seasons, times, and particular voyages during which fishing is authorised;

(c) The species, size, age, and quantities of fish that may be taken;

(d) The methods by which fish may be taken;

(e) The types, size, and amount of fishing gear that may be used or carried by a foreign fishing craft, and the modes of storage of that gear when not in use;

(f) The use, transfer, transshipment, landing, and processing of fish taken;

(g) Entry by the foreign fishing craft to Tongan ports, whether for the inspection of its catch or for other purposes;

(h) The compensation payable to Tongan citizens or to the Crown in the event of any loss or damage caused by the foreign fishing craft to other fishing craft, or their gear or catch, or to fish stocks, or to pipelines or cables, or to other Tongan interests;

(i) Statistical and other information required to be given by the foreign fishing craft to the Ministry of Agriculture Forest and fisheries, including statistics relating to catch and effort and reports as to the positions of the craft;

(j) The conduct by the foreign fishing craft of specified programmes of fisheries research;

(k) The training of Tongan personnel in the methods of fishing employed by the foreign fishing craft and the transfer to Tonga of technology relating to fisheries;

(l) The display on board the foreign fishing craft of the licence issued in respect of it;

(m) The marking of the foreign fishing craft, and other means for its identification;

(n) Directions, instructions, and other requirements given or made by vessels or aircraft of Tonga. Government ships or aircraft or by any officer authorised under Section 23 of this Act to the foreign fishing craft that shall be complied with by the craft;

(o) The placing of Tongan observers on the foreign fishing craft and the reimbursement of the Ministry of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries by the licensee of the costs of doing so;

(p) The installation of the foreign fishing craft and maintenance in working order of a transponder or other equipment for the identification and location of the craft, and of adequate navigational equipment to enable its position to be fixed from the craft.

(q) The carriage on board the foreign fishing craft of specified nautical charts, nautical publications, and nautical instruments;

(r) Such other matters as the Minister considers necessary or expedient for the conservation or management of fisheries resources within the zone.

Renewal of licences

15. Subject to Section 14 (2) of this Act, the Minister may from time to time renew any licence granted under Section 14 of this Act.

Variation of licences

16. (1) Subject to Section 14 (2) of this Act, the Minister may from time to time, where he is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient for the proper regulation of fishing within the exclusive economic zone to do so, vary the terms and conditions of any licence or licences, or class or classes of licence, granted under Section 14 of this Act.

(2) Notice of every variation of any licence under this sections shall be given as soon as practicable to the licensee.

Licensing fees

17. There shall be payable by every licensee to the Crown in respect of the granting of a licence under Section 14 of this Act, or the renewal of licence under Section 15 of this Act, such fee as may from time to time be prescribed.

Licensing offences

18. (1) Where any foreign fishing craft that is not licenced under Section 14 of this Act is used for fishing in the exclusive economic zone, each of them the owner, the master, and every crew member of the craft commits an offence against this Act.

(2) Where any foreign fishing craft that is not licenced under Section 14 of this Act displays within the exclusive economic zone any marking or other means of identification that indicates that it is licensed under that section, each of them, the owner, the master, and every member of the craft commits an offence against this Act.

(3) Where any foreign fishing craft is used for fishing within the exclusive economic zone in contravention of any condition of a licence issued in respect of it under Section 14 of this Act, each of them the licensee, the master, and every crew member of the craft commits an offence against this Act.

(4) Every owner or master of a foreign fishing craft who commits an offence specified in subsection (1) or

subsection/(2) of this section is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(5) Every crew member of a foreign fishing craft who commits an offence specified in subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

(6) Every licensee or master of a foreign fishing craft who commits an offence specified in subsection (3) of this section is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.

(7) Every crew member of a foreign fishing craft who commits an offence specified in subsection (3) of this section is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,500.

(8) In this section, "crew member" does not include a licensee, owner, or master of a foreign fishing craft, or any Tongan personnel or observer on the craft pursuant to a condition attached to a licence under Section 14(3) of this Act.

Suspension and cancellation of licenses

19. (1) Where the Minister is satisfied that:

(a) Any foreign fishing craft in respect of which a licence has been granted under Section 14 of this Act is being or has been used for fishing within the exclusive economic zone in contravention of any condition of the licence or of any law of Tonga that applies to fishing within the zone; or

(b) Any licensee, master, or crew member of a foreign fishing craft has been convicted of an offence against this Act, or against any regulations made under Section 21 of this Act, or against any other law of Tonga relating to fishing within the zone; or

(c) Any licensee, master or crew member of a foreign fishing craft has failed to pay to the Crown, within the time limit specified in Section 25(8) of this Act, the amount of any penalty imposed on him under that section by the Minister

he may suspend the licence of the craft of such period as he shall specify, or cancel the licence.

(2) Where the Minister, after consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, determines that it is necessary or expedient for the proper regulation of fishing within the exclusive economic zone to do so, he may suspend any licence or licences or class or classes of licence for such period as he shall specify, or cancel any licence or licences or class or classes of licence.

(3) While a licence is suspended under this section, it shall have no effect.

Review by courts

20. No exercise by the Minister of any power conferred on him by Section 16 or Section 19 (2) of this Act shall be liable to be changed, reviewed, quashed, or called in question in any Court on the ground that the conditions for the exercise of the power by him had not arisen or had ceased.

Fisheries regulations

21. (1) The King may from time to time, by Order-in-Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

(a) Prescribing the manner or applying for licences under Section 14 of this Act, and for the renewal of such

licences under Section 15 of this Act, and forms of applications;

- (b) Prescribing the terms of duration of licences;
 - (c) Prescribing the forms of licences to be issued by the Minister;
 - (d) Prescribing the fees payable to the Crown for the issue of licences and their renewal;
 - (e) Providing for the production of licences by licencees to specified Tongan authorities when required to do so, and the inspection of licences by such authorities;
 - (f) Requiring applicants for licences, and licenseees, to designated authorised agents in Tonga in respect of foreign fishing craft;
 - (g) Providing for such other measures as are necessary or expedient to ensure that foreign fishing craft are used for fishing within the exclusive economic zone only in accordance with the terms and conditions of their licences;
 - (h) Prescribing conditions, not inconsistent with this Act, under which fishing may be undertaken within the zone by foreign fishing craft;
 - (i) Prescribing measures, not inconsistent with this Act, for the conservation and management of fisheries resources within the zone;
 - (j) Specifying particular types of highly migratory species of fish, and regulating, in a manner not inconsistent with this Act, fishing for those species within the zone, and also, in the case of Tongan fishing craft, beyond the zone;
 - (k) Providing that a breach of any such regulation shall be a criminal offence, and imposing penalties by way of fine not exceeding, in the case of a licensee, owner, or master of a fishing craft, \$10,000 for any such offences and, in the case of any other crew member, \$1,000 for any such offences;
 - (l) Prescribing the form of bonds for the purposes of Section 24 of this Act.
 - (m) Prescribing forms of notices and procedures to be followed for the purposes of Section 25 of this Act.
 - (n) Providing, in respect of notice, summonses, and other documents to be served under this Act or in any civil or criminal proceedings under this Act, that specified methods of service (including service on the authorised agent of a foreign fishing craft or on the diplomatic or consular representative in respect of Tonga of the country in which the craft is registered) shall be deemed to be service on any licensee, owner, master, or crew member of the craft, and providing that specified methods of proof of service shall be deemed to be sufficient proof of service.
- (2) Regulations made under this section may make different provisions for different parts of the exclusive economic zone and for different species of fish.
- (3) In prescribing fees in regulations made under this section, the King in Council may -
- (a) Take into account (inter alia) the cost of implementing the provisions of this Act, including the cost of the conservation and management of fisheries resources, and of fisheries research, and of the administration and enforcement of such enactments; and
 - (b) Prescribe different fees for different classes of foreign fishing craft (whether by reference to size, catch,

method of fishing, function, or otherwise).

Fishing for research, experimental, and sporting purposes

22. Notwithstanding Section 13 or Section 18 of a foreign fishing craft may be used for fishing exclusive economic zone for the purpose of fisheries or of experimentation or sport, subject always to consent in writing of the Minister to such activity and in accordance with such conditions (if any) as the Minister may impose in giving his consent.

Apprehension of offenders

23. (1) Any officer specified in subsection (16) of this Section may at any time stop, board, inspect, and search any foreign fishing craft in the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, and inspect any fish on board the craft; and where he has reasonable cause to believe that an offence against this Act, or against regulations made under Section 21 of this Act, or against any other law of Tonga, relating to fishing within the exclusive economic zone, has been committed in respect of any foreign fishing craft he may:

(a) Seize and detain all fish on board the craft; and

(b) Apprehend any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe has committed any offence specified in this subsection; and

(c) If he has reasonable cause to believe that any such offence has been committed by the licensee, owner, or master of the craft, seize and detain the craft.

(2) Any officer specified in subsection (16) of this section may exercise the powers conferred on him by subsection (1) of this section with the aid of such assistance as he considers to be necessary for the purpose.

(3) Where any foreign fishing craft is detained under subsection (1) of this section, it shall be held in the custody of the Crown until -

(a) A decision is made not to lay any information or charge in respect of the alleged offence for which the craft was detained; or

(b) Where such an information or charge is laid, the security required by Section 24 of this Act is given in respect of the craft.

(4) The decision whether or not to lay an information or charge in respect of an alleged offence for which a foreign fishing craft is detained under subsection (1) of this section shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the craft is detained.

(5) The release of a foreign fishing craft from detention shall not affect any subsequent forfeiture of the craft in respect of the conviction of any person of an offence.

(6) On the conviction of any licensee, owner, or master of a foreign fishing craft for any offence specified in subsection (1) of this section, the craft shall be forfeited to the Crown, and shall be disposed of in such manner as the Minister shall order, in addition to any fine that may be imposed by any Court on the convicted person.

(7) Where any fish is detained under subsection (1) of this section, it shall be held in the custody of the Crown (either on board the foreign fishing craft from which it was seized or in such other place as the Minister may direct) until:

(a) A decision is made not to lay any information or charge in respect of the alleged offence for which the fish was detained; or

(b) Where such an information or charge is laid, any security required by Section 24 of this Act is given in respect of the fish.

(8) The release of any fish from detention shall not affect any subsequent forfeiture of the fish on the conviction of any person for an offence.

(9) The Crown shall not be liable to any person for any deterioration in the quality of any fish detained under subsection (1) of this section, whether such deterioration is caused by the negligence of the Crown or otherwise.

(10) On the conviction of any person for any offence specified in subsection (1) of this section in respect of any fish detained under that subsection, the fish shall be forfeited to the Crown and shall be disposed of in such manner as the Minister shall order, in addition to any fine that may be imposed by any Court on the convicted person.

(11) Where any officer specified in subsection (16) of this practicable before a Court to be dealt with in accordance with law.

(12) Where any foreign fishing craft or fish is held in the custody of the Crown under this section, then on the conviction of any person for any offence specified in subsection (1) of this section in respect of the craft or fish, as the case may be, the costs of the Crown in holding it in custody under this section shall be a debt due to the Crown jointly and severally by each of them the licensee, the owner, and the master of the craft, and shall be recoverable accordingly by the Crown in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

(13) Without limiting any other manner of recovering any debt due to the Crown under subsection (12) of this section, on the conviction of the licensee, owner, or master of any foreign fishing craft for any offence referred to in that subsection, the Court by which he is convicted may make an order that he shall pay to the Crown any costs for which he is liable under that subsection.

(14) Subject to subsection (9) of this section, but notwithstanding any other provision in this section, where any foreign fishing craft or fish has been detained under subsection (1) of this section, then on the acquittal of every person who is charged with any offence for which the craft or fish, as the case may be, is subject to forfeiture under this section, the craft or fish, as the case may require, shall forthwith be released from the custody of the Crown.

(15) Any person who in any way prevents or hinders any officer specified in subsection (16) of this section, or any assistant of the officer, in exercising the powers conferred by this section commits an offence against this Act, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(16) Subsection (1) of this section refers to any of the following officers:

- (a) members of the Police Force;
- (b) commissioned officers of the Tonga Defense Services;
- (c) persons in command or charge of any vessel or aircraft operated by or on behalf of the Tonga Defense Services of the Government;
- (d) any other person appointed for this purpose by the Minister.

Security for release of foreign fishing craft

24. (1) Where any foreign fishing craft is detained under Section 23 of this Act, and an information or charge is laid against the licensee, owner, or master of the craft in respect of the offence for which the craft has been detained, the licensee, owner, or master of the craft may at any time before the determination of the information or charge apply to the Court by which the information or charge will be determined for the release of the craft on the provision of security in accordance with this section.

(2) On hearing the application, the Court shall order the release of the foreign fishing craft on the execution by any suitable person or persons approved by the Court for the purpose, of a bond in favour of the Government, in the prescribed form and conditioned in accordance with sub-section/(4) of this section, in an amount not less than the aggregate of the value of the craft, the costs that the Crown may recover under Section 23 (12) of this Act if the defendant is convicted of the offence, and the maximum fine to which the defendant will be liable if he is convicted of the offence.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the Court may, where it is satisfied that there are special circumstances to justify it in doing so, order that the bond shall be in a specified amount that is less than the amount required by that subsection.

(4) The condition of the bond shall be that if -

(a) The defendant is found not guilty of the information or charge; or

(b) The defendant on being convicted of the information or charge pays in full within 14 days after he is convicted the amount of the fine imposed by the court, and the amount of all costs due by him to the Crown under section 23 (12) of this Act, and the foreign fishing craft is within that time surrendered to the Crown for forfeiture -

then the bond shall be of no effect, but that otherwise the bond shall remain in full force and effect.

(5) The amount specified in the bond shall be recoverable in full in any Court of competent jurisdiction, as a debt due to the Government jointly and severally by the person or persons by whom the bond is given, unless the person or persons prove the due performance of the condition on which the bond is defeasible.

(6) In this section, "foreign fishing craft" includes all equipment on board or used by the craft under Section 23 (1) of this Act and is detained on board the craft in the custody of the Crown under that section.

Administrative penalties for minor fisheries offences

25. (1) Where the Minister has reasonable cause to believe that:

(a) An offence against this Act, or against regulations made under Section 21 of this Act, or against any other law of Tonga relating to fishing within the exclusive economic zone, may have been committed by any person in respect of any foreign fishing craft; and

(b) Having regard to all the circumstances relating to the alleged offence it is of a minor nature, and having regard to the previous conduct of the craft and of the person concerned in the exclusive economic zone, it would be appropriate to impose a penalty under this section:

he may cause a notice in writing in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, and otherwise in the prescribed form, to be served on that person.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) of this section shall specify:

(a) The date and nature of the offence;

(b) A summary of the facts on which the allegation that an offence has been committed is based (being a sufficient summary to fully and fairly inform the person of the allegation against him); and

(c) Any other matters (not being previous convictions) that the Minister considers relevant to the imposition of a penalty:

and shall be endorsed with a statement setting out the provisions of this section.

(3) Any person on whom a notice under subsection (1) of this section is served may, within 28 days after the notice is served on him, by a notice in writing in the prescribed form served on the Minister require that any proceedings in respect of the alleged offences shall be dealt with before a Court, in which case the following provisions shall apply:

(a) No further proceedings shall be taken under this section by the Minister;

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the subsequent laying of any information or charge in respect of the alleged offence, or the conviction of the person of the offence by a Court, or the imposition of any penalty under any enactment or forfeiture under this Act on such a conviction.

(4) Any person on whom a notice under subsection (1) of this section is served, who does not require that any proceedings in respect of the alleged offence shall be dealt with before a Court, may by notice in writing served on the Minister -

(a) Admit the offence; and

(b) In any case make submissions to the Minister as to the matters he wishes the Minister to take into account in imposing any penalty under this section.

(5) Where a person on whom a notice under subsection (1) of this section is served does not, within 28 days after the notice is served on him, -

(a) Require that any proceedings in respect of the alleged offence shall be dealt with before a Court; or

(b) Admit the offence:

he shall on the expiration of that period be deemed to have admitted the offence.

(6) Where under this section a person admits or is deemed to have admitted an offence, the Minister may, after taking into account any submissions made by the person under subsection/(4) of this section, impose a monetary penalty on the persons in respect of the offence, not exceeding one-third of the maximum monetary penalty to which the person would be liable if he were convicted of the offence by a Court.

(7) Where the Minister imposes a penalty on a person under this section in respect of an offence, the Minister shall cause a notice in writing in the prescribed form of the particulars of the penalty to be served on the person.

(8) A person on whom a penalty is imposed under this section shall pay the amount of the penalty to the Crown within 28 days after the notice of the penalty is served on him in accordance with subsection (7) of this

section.

(9) Without prejudice to the requirements of subsection (8) of this section, or to Section 19 (1) of this Act, a penalty that has been imposed under this section shall be recoverable by the Crown, from the person on whom it has been imposed, in the same manner as a fine is recoverable on conviction for any offence.

(10) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 18, 21, 23 and 24 of this Act, or of any other enactment, where any offence has been admitted under this section, no information or charge may be laid in respect of the offence against the person by whom it is admitted.

(11) Nothing in this section shall apply:

(a) In respect of any offence or alleged offence under subsection

(1) or subsection (2) of Section 18 of this Act; or

(b) In respect of any offence or alleged offence in respect of which any information or charge has been laid.

General regulations in the zone

26. The King may from time to time, by Order-in-Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

(a) regulating the conduct of scientific research within the exclusive economic zone;

(b) prescribing measures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the zone;

(c) regulating the constructions, operation, and use of artificial islands (whether permanent or temporary), and other installation and structures within the zone, including the establishment of safety zones around such islands, installation, and structures;

(d) regulating the exploration and exploitation of the zone for the production of energy from the water, currents, and winds, and for any other economic purposes;

(e) providing for such other matters as are necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the sovereign rights of Tonga in relation to the zone:

(f) providing that a breach of any such regulations shall be a criminal offence, and imposing penalties by way of fine not exceeding \$10,000 for any such offences;

(g) providing for such other matters as are contemplated by or necessary for giving full effect to the provisions of this Part of this Act (other than matters for which regulations may be made under Section 21 of this Act) and for its due administration.

General provisions as to offences in the zone

27. (1) Any offence against this Act, or against any regulations made under this Act, that is committed within the exclusive economic zone shall be deemed to have been committed in Tonga.

(2) Where any licensee, owner, master, or crew member of a foreign fishing craft is charged with any offence specified in Section 18 of this Act, or in any regulations made under Section 21 of this Act, in respect of any activity described in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of the definition of the term "fishing" in Section 2 (1) of this Act, it shall be a defence to the charge if the defendant proves that such activity related only to fish taken beyond the outer limits

of the exclusive economic zone.

(3) Where any power of apprehension of any person, or of stopping, boarding, or searching any fishing craft or fish, is conferred on any person under this Part of this Act, that power may be exercised with or without a warrant.

PART III MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Modifications to give effect to international agreement

28. The King may from time to time by Order-in-Council, limit any provision of this Act relating to the exclusive economic zone so far as it is necessary to do so to give full effect to any convention that is adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Official charts

29. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the low-water mark in any specified area shall be the line of low-water at mean low-water spring tides as depicted on the largest scale British Admiralty chart for the time being of that area.

(2) In any proceedings in any Court, a certificate purporting to be signed by the Harbour Master that any specified British Admiralty chart of that area is the largest scale British Admiralty chart for the time being available of that area shall be admissible as evidence of that matter.

Onus of proof in respect of offences

30. In any criminal proceedings under this Act where a defendant is charged with having committed an offence specified in Section 18 of this Act, or with having contravened any other provision in any regulations made under this Act under which a licence or permit, or the consent of any person is required for the doing of any act, the onus shall be on the defendant to prove that at the time to which the charge relates, the requisite licence, permit, or consent was duly held.

Amendment, repeal, and savings

31. (1) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby amended in the manner indicated in that Schedule.

(2) The Fisheries Protection Act 1973 is hereby repealed.

(3) Except as expressly provided by this Act, the provisions of this Act are in addition to and not in substitution for the provisions of every other enactment, and accordingly nothing in this Act shall limit or derogate from the provisions of any other enactment.