

Act on the Delimitation of the Territorial Waters of Finland,
No. 463 of 18 August 1956 (as amended)

Paragraph 1

The territorial waters of Finland shall comprise the part of the sea immediately adjacent to the land territory of the State which is limited in the east towards the Soviet Union in the archipelago of Virolahti in the Gulf of Finland by the sea boundary of the State established in the Paris Treaty of Peace with Finland (690-691/47), signed on 10 February 1947, and in the archipelago of Haapasaari by the sea boundary established in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Delimitation of the Sea Territories and the Continental shelf in the Gulf of Finland, concluded on 20 May 1965, and in the west towards Sweden in the archipelago of Tornio in the Gulf of Bothnia by the sea boundary of the State established through the boundary lines review of 1956 to 1957 made in accordance with the Topographic Description of Boundaries signed after the Peace of Hamina in Tornio on 19 January 1811. To the north and the south of Market Rock in the Aland Sea the boundary with Sweden shall be the sea boundary established in the above Description of Boundaries of 1811, such as it was included in the Convention relating to the Non-fortification and Neutralization of the Aland Islands which was signed on 20 October 1921 (64/22). Subject to the exceptions mentioned in paragraph 7, the territorial waters shall extend as far out as the international boundary of the territorial waters.

A single island, rock or low-water elevation or a group of them situated far out in the sea can have separate territorial waters.

Paragraph 2

The territorial waters shall be divided into internal waters and external waters or the territorial sea.

Paragraph 3

The internal waters shall refer to the part of the territorial waters which extends from the shoreline and the mouths of rivers on the side of the mainland to the line on the side of the open sea the baseline points of which are located on the outermost landmarks, either on the mainland, on islands, rocks or low-water elevations.

Paragraph 4

The baseline points referred to in paragraph 3 above shall be selected in such a manner that:

- (1) They are located above the average water level calculated on the basis of water level measurements made during the 10-year period immediately preceding the year of entry into force of this Act, with the exception that a point which is below the said level and at least periodically in sight can be selected as a baseline point, provided a lighthouse or other installations permanently above the sealevel have been built on it;
- (2) Their distance from one another does not exceed twice the breadth of the territorial sea;
- (3) The internal waters become as wide as possible.

The baseline points shall be reviewed in every thirty years.

Paragraph 5

The territorial sea consists of a zone immediately adjacent to the internal waters the outer boundary line of which or the international boundary of territorial waters shall lie at four nautical miles, or 7,408 metres, from the outer boundary of the internal waters, unless otherwise stipulated in this Act.

Paragraph 6

If an island, a rock or a low-tide elevation or a group of them is situated so far out in the sea that it remains outside the outer boundary of the internal waters established in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4, it shall have separate territorial waters, in such a manner however that the breadth of the territorial sea equals three nautical miles, or 5,556 metres.

Paragraph 7

The outer boundary of the territorial sea shall run in a straight line to the west of the westernmost point of the eastern sea boundary of the State up to the easternmost point of the boundary of the territorial sea of Finland, as established in the Paris Treaty of Peace signed on 10 February 1947, at which point it shall join the said boundary of the territorial sea.

The outer boundary line of the territorial sea shall run vertically from the westernmost point of the boundary of the territorial sea of Finland referred to in sub-paragraph 1 above up to the outer boundary established in accordance with paragraph 5, until it joins this boundary.

To the southwest of the island of Flötjan in the Aland Sea the territorial sea established in accordance with Paragraph 5 shall be limited by the boundary established in the Topographic Description of Boundaries signed after the Peace of Hamina in Tornio on 19 January 1811, such as it was included in the Convention Relating to the Non-fortification and Neutralisation of the Aland Islands signed on 20 October 1921 (64/22).

The last baseline point in the archipelago of Tornio in the Gulf of Bothnia on the Finnish side shall be followed by a baseline point on the Swedish side.

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