

No 41 of 1 June 1979**[Law concerning the Territorial Sea, the Contiguous Zone, the Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf]¹⁾**^{1) Act 58/2017, Article 3}

Entered into force on 1 June 1979. Amended by Act No 58/2017 (entered into force on 21 June 2017) and Act No 44/2018 (entered into force on 26 May 2018).

I. The territorial sea.**■ Article 1**

□ [The territorial sea of Iceland shall be delimited by a line every point of which is 12 nautical miles from a baseline drawn between the following points:

1. 66°27' 18,73"N 22°24' 10,19"V Horn I
2. 66°08' 04,64"N 20°10' 48,81"V Ásbúðarrif
3. 66°12' 04,58"N 18°51' 30,00"V Siglunes
4. 66°10' 20,57"N 17°51' 14,76"V Flatey
5. 66°17' 59,33"N 17°07' 02,92"V Lágey
6. 66°30' 37,67"N 16°32' 38,58"V Rauðínúpur
7. 66°32' 26,03"N 16°11' 47,30"V Rifstangi
8. 66°32' 16,91"N 16°01' 52,45"V Hraunhafnartangi I
9. 66°32' 15,98"N 16°01' 31,32"V Hraunhafnartangi II
10. 66°32' 14,74"N 16°01' 18,66"V Hraunhafnartangi III
11. 66°22' 42,72"N 14°31' 47,69"V Langanes
12. 65°30' 39,80"N 13°36' 16,23"V Glettinganes
13. 65°09' 58,45"N 13°30' 37,83"V Norðfjarðarhorn
14. 65°04' 37,50"N 13°29' 34,21"V Gerpir
15. 64°58' 54,90"N 13°30' 46,40"V Hólmur
16. 64°57' 41,21"N 13°31' 33,17"V Setusker
17. 64°54' 04,80"N 13°36' 51,98"V Þursasker
18. 64°35' 06,16"N 14°01' 35,92"V Ystiboði
19. 64°32' 45,47"N 14°06' 56,14"V Selsker
20. 64°23' 45,67"N 14°27' 32,81"V Hvítugar
21. [64°14' 23,41"N 14°57' 37,98"V Stokksnes I]¹⁾
22. [64°14' 08,11"N 14°58' 22,20"V Stokksnes II]¹⁾
23. 64°01' 39,04"N 15°58' 37,16"V Hrollaugseyjar
24. 63°55' 45,18"N 16°11' 00,17"V Tvísker
25. 63°47' 50,65"N 16°38' 22,59"V Ingólfshöfði
26. 63°43' 31,09"N 17°37' 32,76"V Hvalsíki
27. [63°32' 23,47"N 17°55' 14,65"V Meðallandssandur I]¹⁾
28. [63°30' 24,19"N 18°00' 01,69"V Meðallandssandur II]¹⁾
29. 63°27' 43,73"N 18°09' 09,22"V Mýrnatangi
30. 63°23' 36,05"N 18°44' 10,16"V Kötlutangi
31. 63°23' 32,72"N 19°07' 26,23"V Lundadrangur
32. 63°17' 44,80"N 20°36' 16,61"V Surtsey
33. 63°43' 48,66"N 22°59' 18,71"V Eldeyjarangur
34. 63°40' 40,03"N 23°17' 05,86"V Geirfugladrangur
35. 64°51' 16,81"N 24°02' 19,59"V Skálasnagi
36. 65°30' 07,00"N 24°32' 12,73"V Bjargtangar I
37. 65°30' 17,56"N 24°32' 07,35"V Bjargtangar II
38. 65°48' 23,52"N 24°06' 07,72"V Kópanes
39. 66°03' 39,84"N 23°47' 33,50"V Barði I
40. 66°04' 11,01"N 23°46' 41,61"V Barði II
41. 66°25' 48,44"N 23°08' 21,56"V Straumnes I
42. 66°25' 54,17"N 23°08' 10,87"V Straumnes II
43. 66°25' 59,11"N 23°07' 52,08"V Straumnes III
44. 66°26' 11,36"N 23°06' 47,40"V Straumnes IV
45. 66°28' 00,48"N 22°57' 13,86"V Kögur I
46. 66°28' 11,57"N 22°56' 12,07"V Kögur II
47. 66°27' 55,63"N 22°28' 21,71"V Horn II

The territorial sea shall moreover be delimited by a line every point of which is 12 nautical miles from the low-water line of Kolbeinsey (67°08' 59,57"N, 18°40' 58,70"V), Hvalbakur (64°35' 45,42"N, 13°16' 37,71"V) and the outermost points and rocks of Grímsey. (66°34' 03,27"N, 18°01' 18,74"V; 66°33' 33,72"N, 18°00' 03,65"V; 66°32' 45,09"N, 17°58' 38,74"V; 66°32' 00,88"N, 17°58' 40,37"V; 66°31' 29,42"N, 17°58' 45,61"V; 66°31' 36,26"N, 17°59' 24,84"V; 66°31' 40,69"N, 17°59' 43,81"V; 66°32' 15,60"N, 18°01' 17,25"V; 66°32' 21,61"N, 18°01' 22,93"V; 66°32' 33,57"N, 18°01' 34,45"V; 66°33' 04,77"N, 18°01' 48,60"V; 66°34' 01,34"N, 18°01' 28,13"V).

□ Each nautical mile shall be equal to 1852 metres.]²⁾

^{1) Act No 44/2018, Article 1 2) Act No 58/2017, Article 1.}**■ Article 2**

□ The sovereignty of Iceland extends to the territorial sea, its seabed and the air space over it.

□ The sovereignty is exercised in accordance with Icelandic law and the rules of international law.

[I.A. Contiguous**zone.]¹⁾**^{1) Act 58/2017, Article 2}**■ [2. gr. a.**

□ A contiguous zone is an area beyond the territorial sea that is delimited by a line every point of which is 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the territorial sea.]¹⁾

^{1) Act 58/2017, Article 2}**■ [2. gr. b.**

□ In the contiguous zone, Icelandic authorities may exercise the control necessary to:

a. prevent infringements of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea,

b. punish infringements of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.]¹⁾

^{1) Act 58/2017, Article 2}**■ [2. gr. c.**

□ Removal of objects of archaeological and historical nature from the seabed in the contiguous zone, without authorisation by Icelandic authorities, would result in an infringement of the relevant laws and regulations applicable in Iceland.]¹⁾

^{1) Act 58/2017, Article 2}**II. The economic zone.****■ Article 3**

□ The economic zone of Iceland is an area beyond the territorial sea that is delimited by a line every point of which is 200 nautical miles from the baselines of the territorial sea, without prejudice to Article 7.

■ Article 4

□ In the economic zone, Iceland has:

a. sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the sea-bed and of the sea-bed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds,

b. jurisdiction with regard to:

- i. the establishment and use of man-made structures,
- ii. scientific research,
- iii. the preservation of the marine environment,
- c. other rights and duties under international law.

□ The exercise of rights and duties in the economic zone shall be in accordance with special legislation and in conformity with international agreements to which Iceland is a party.

III. The continental shelf.

■ Article 5

□ The continental shelf of Iceland comprises the sea-bed and submarine areas that are a prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines of the territorial sea where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance, without prejudice to Article 7.

■ Article 6

□ The sovereignty of Iceland over the continental shelf covers the exploring and exploiting of non-living resources, together with living organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the sea-bed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the sea-bed.

□ The authorities will establish rules¹⁾ on the exploration and exploitation of resources on the continental shelf.

¹⁾ Regulation 196/1985 (delimitation of the continental shelf).

IV. Delimitation of areas between States.

■ Article 7

□ The delimitation of the economic zone and the continental shelf between Iceland and other States shall, where appropriate, be effected by agreements with the States concerned and such agreements shall be subject to approval by the Althing.

□ Until otherwise decided, the economic zone and the continental shelf of Iceland shall be 200 nautical miles from the baselines of the territorial sea, provided, however, that where the distance is less than 400 nautical miles between the baselines of the Faroe Islands and Greenland on the one hand and Iceland on the other hand, the economic zone and the continental shelf of Iceland shall be delimited by a median line.

V. Measures to prevent pollution.

■ Article 8

□ Any measures that might pollute or otherwise damage the marine environment shall be avoided.

□ Icelandic authorities shall, by special legislation and in conformity with international agreements to which Iceland is a party, take measures to protect the marine environment against pollution and other harmful effects.

VI. Scientific research.

■ Article 9

□ Scientific research in the territorial sea, the economic zone and the continental shelf of Iceland shall be subject to approval by Icelandic authorities.

□ In normal circumstances such consent shall be granted for research projects within the economic zone or on the continental shelf if the application emanates from a foreign State or a competent international organization and the research project is to be carried out for peaceful purposes and to increase knowledge of the marine environment. Consent may, inter alia, be withheld if the application:

- a. is of direct significance for the exploration and exploitation of resources, whether living or non-living,
- b. involves drilling into the continental shelf or the use of explosives or substances harmful to the environment,
- c. involves the construction, operation or use of man-made structures.

■ Article 10

□ An application for a research permit in accordance with Article 9 shall be submitted not less than six months in advance of the expected starting date of the project and shall be accompanied by full particulars concerning:

- a. the nature and objectives of the research project,
- b. the method and means to be used, including name, tonnage, type and class of vessels and a description of scientific equipment,
- c. the precise geographical areas in which the activities are to be conducted,
- d. the commencement and termination of the research period,
- e. the name of the sponsoring institution, its director, and the person in charge of the research expedition,
- f. the anticipated participation of Icelandic authorities in the research project.

□ Icelandic authorities shall communicate their decision on an application within four months if consent is to be withheld.

VII. Miscellaneous provisions.

■ Article 11

□ Violations of the provisions of this Law shall be subject to penalties prescribed in the provisions of existing legislations.

■ Article 12 . .

*[This translation is published for information only.
The original Icelandic text is published in the Law
Gazette. In case of a possible discrepancy, the
original Icelandic text applies.]*