

Introduction

1. *The Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1977* defines the Territorial Sea of New Zealand to extend 12 nautical miles from the baseline specified in the Act. It also establishes an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending 200 nautical miles from the baseline specified in the Act. See diagram on page 242.

Baseline of the Territorial Sea and EEZ

2. The baseline from which the breadth of the New Zealand Territorial Sea and EEZ is measured is the low water line around the coast of New Zealand and off-lying islands, and straight baselines across the natural entrance points of bays (not exceeding 24 nautical miles), estuaries and inlets to join points on the low water line.

Outer Limit of the Territorial Sea

3. The outer limit of the New Zealand Territorial Sea is a line measured 12 nautical miles seaward from the point of the low water baseline (see preceding paragraph) and is indicated on charts of the New Zealand coastal series.

Outer Limit of the EEZ

4. The outer limit of the New Zealand EEZ is a line measured 200 nautical miles seaward from the point of the low water Territorial Sea baseline.

Official Charts

5. For the purpose of the Act the line of low water for any area depicted on charts published under the authority of Land Information New Zealand shall be sufficient evidence of the low water mark. The outer limits of the New Zealand Territorial Sea and EEZ are indicated on special fishing charts, NZ 223F and NZ 224F and the small scale chart series. The outer limits of the Territorial Sea are also indicated on the coastal chart series.

Maritime Boundary Downloads

6. The Maritime Boundaries described above are available in ESRI Shape file format from www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/nautical-info/maritime-boundaries/downloads/index.aspx. Shape files are in terms of WGS 84.

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“DATA IS NOT COMPLIANT WITH AND CANNOT BE USED IN LIEU OF DATA REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 31.1 OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA [CONTIGUOUS ZONE] AND EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ACT 1977. NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION”

Policing the Zone

6. Aircraft of the RNZAF and ships of the RNZN are frequently engaged in surveillance activities in New Zealand's fisheries waters. The aircraft may illuminate or contact a vessel without notice.

Note: Other vessels can also assist in surveillance work by reporting suspected infringements of the Territorial Sea and EEZ. Refer to para 8.

Infringements

Foreign Fishing Vessels

7. Infringements in the 12 nautical mile Territorial Sea include:

- (a) Trawling by any vessel over 46 metres;
- (b) Fishing by any foreign vessel; and
- (c) Fishing in closed areas.

Note: Certain foreign vessels are permitted to fish within the EEZ. These vessels may be under charter to a New Zealand company or operating under a specific licence for a limited period.

Domestic Fishing Vessels:

8. Infringements in the 12 nautical mile Territorial Sea include:

- (a) Trawling by any vessel over 46 metres;
- (b) Fishing in closed areas and seasons;

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(c) Fishing using restricted or illegal methods;

Reporting Suspected Infringements

9. In the event of either scenario a report should be made to the Fisheries Communications Centre, Wellington, without delay by telephone: +64 4 801 5782, facsimile: +64 4 801 5381 or fcc@fish.govt.nz.

As much of the following information as possible should be given:

- (a) Date and time of sighting
- (b) Position of sighting (latitude and longitude to nearest second if possible)
- (c) Method of position fix
- (d) Description of vessel including type, name, callsign and any registration numbers
- (e) Direction and speed of vessel
- (f) Activity observed (i.e. fishing, steaming, etc).

If possible photographs should be taken and a written report made. Reporting vessels should not attempt to apprehend suspect vessels as they may be operating under a special licence.

To report any other suspicious or illegal activities, call 0800 4 POACHER (0800 4 76224) immediately.

For further information on regulations please contact your nearest Ministry of Fisheries office or visit www.fish.govt.nz

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