

**Law No. 52/AN/78 concerning the territorial sea, the contiguous zone,
the exclusive economic zone, the maritime frontiers and fishing**

SECTION I
Titles and definition

Article 1

This law relates to the delimitation of the territorial waters, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, the maritime frontiers and fishing.

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Article 4

The territorial sea extends 12 nautical miles from the baselines. The baselines used to measure the breadth of the territorial sea are the low-water line as well as the straight baselines and the closing lines of bays.

The closing lines of bays used to determine the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial waters adjacent to the territory of the Republic are measured are, for the Gulf of Tadjourah, the lines joining points A and B and points B and C, defined as follows:

Point A: Point north of the mouth of Oued Dalley (latitude 11°50, 40N; longitude 43°05, 10E);

Point B: Lighthouse of Musha Island (latitude 11°43, 90N; longitude 43°12, 80E);

Point C: Point south of the Oued Aatar (latitude 11°30, 20N; longitude 43°15, 50E).

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SECTION III
Exclusive economic zone

Article 12

The Republic has an exclusive economic zone which extends 200 nautical miles from the baselines of the territorial sea.

Article 13

In the economic zone, including the seabed, its subsoil and the waters superjacent, thereto, the Republic shall have:

- (a) Sovereign and exclusive rights for the purposes of conserving, prospecting, exploiting and managing renewable or non-renewable natural resources, and for the purposes of the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;
- (b) The sovereign and exclusive right to establish, repair and use artificial islands, installations and other structures necessary for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the exclusive economic zone of the Republic;
- (c) Exclusive jurisdiction over the marine environment with a view to its conservation and protection and the prevention of marine pollution. The Republic shall also have sovereign rights for the purposes of authorizing, organizing and controlling scientific research;
- (d) The other rights and obligations provided for in international law.

Article 14

Subject to the above mentioned rights, the Republic guarantees all States freedom of navigation and overflight and freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines in its exclusive economic zone.

SECTION IV
Maritime frontiers

Article 15

The maritime frontiers of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the economic zone between the Republic and a neighbouring State whose coasts are adjacent to or opposite those of the Republic shall be determined by agreement with that State.

Pending the conclusion of an agreement to determine the maritime frontiers, the latter shall not extend beyond a median line between the two States or beyond a line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of the Republic and of the State in question are measured.

The provisions of this Law shall not modify the international rules of navigation in the Straits of Bab El Mandeb.

SECTION V

Fishing

Article 16

Fishing for commercial purposes shall be subject in the territorial waters, the contiguous zone and the economic zone to prior authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 17

To the extent that they do not resell their catch, citizens of the Republic, foreign residents and tourists in transit shall be exempt from the requirement of the prior authorization referred to in article 16.

Article 18

Any person fishing for commercial or non-commercial purposes must respect the regulations of the Republic regarding fishing and particularly the prohibitions applying in respect of those zones for the purpose of protecting submarine fauna.

Article 19

Persons contravening the provisions of articles 16 and 17 shall be liable to fines the amounts of which shall be fixed by decree.

Article 20

This Law shall be executed as a law of the State and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

DONE at Djibouti on 9 January 1979.