

Law No. 21/92 of 28 August 1992

It has become essential to establish or define the internal waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone of Angola, because of the fact that Angola currently has a territorial sea of 20 miles and an exclusive fisheries zone adjacent thereto of up to 200 nautical miles.

Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of article 51(b) of the Constitution and in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by article 47(g) thereof, the People's Assembly hereby approves, and I hereby sign and order the publication of the following:

Law on the Internal Waters, Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone

Article 1

Objective

The objective of this Law is to affirm the sovereignty of the State of Angola over its internal waters and territorial sea, and to establish a contiguous zone and an exclusive economic zone belonging to the State of Angola.

SECTION I

INTERNAL WATERS AND TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 2

Territorial sea

The territorial sea of the State of Angola extends up to twelve nautical miles from the low-water line or the straight baselines, as set forth in Decree-Law No. 47,771 of 27 June 1967, or as may be defined under the terms of article 3 of this Law.

Article 3

Baselines

1. The normal baseline is the low-water line.
2. The State of Angola may, if it deems it appropriate and in accordance with the applicable principles of international law, define other straight baselines for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea.
3. The State of Angola shall take action aimed at the adoption and updating of official large-scale geographical charts or maps that indicate the baselines to be used as a reference point for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea.

Article 4

Internal waters

The waters that lie within the baselines constitute the internal waters of the State of Angola.

The State of Angola exercises sovereignty in its internal waters and territorial sea, including the seabed and subsoil thereof.

SECTION II CONTIGUOUS ZONE

Article 6 Contiguous zone

1. In the zone adjacent to the territorial sea called the contiguous zone, the State of Angola shall engage in the following oversight activities, which are necessary in order to:

- (a) Prevent violation of the customs, tax, immigration, or health laws and regulations in its territory or territorial sea;
- (b) Prevent violation of the laws and regulations in its territory or territorial sea.

2. The contiguous zone shall extend up to 24 nautical miles from the baselines that are used to measure the breadth of the territorial sea.

SECTION III EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

Article 7 Exclusive economic zone

An exclusive economic zone is hereby established adjacent and beyond the territorial sea, to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines used to measure the breadth of the territorial sea.

Article 8 Rights and obligations

The State of Angola exercises, in the exclusive economic zone:

(a) Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration or exploitation, conservation and management of the natural resources, living or non-living, of the seabed, subsoil and waters subjacent to the seabed and its subsoil, and with respect to other exploration or exploitation activities of the zone for financial purposes, such as the production of energy using water, the currents or wind.

(b) Jurisdiction over:

- (1) The placement and use of artificial islands, facilities, and structures;
- (2) Marine scientific research;
- (3) The protection and preservation of the marine environment;

(c) Other rights and obligations recognized under international law.

SECTION IV
NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT

Article 9
Innocent passage

The vessels of all States, whether coastal or non-coastal, enjoy the right of innocent passage in the territorial sea, in accordance with international law and the laws enacted by the State of Angola in this regard.

Article 10
Navigation and overflight

1. The State of Angola recognizes, in the exclusive economic zone, the right of the vessels and aircraft of all States, whether coastal or non-coastal, to freedom of navigation and overflight, to lay cables or pipelines and to use the sea in other ways linked to navigation and communications, which are recognized by international law.
2. Delineation for the purpose of laying cables, pipelines and other lines in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf of the State of Angola shall be subject to the approval of the Government and possible measures aimed at preventing conflict among the different uses of the sea, seabed or subsoil.

Article 11
Right of pursuit

If the authorities of the State of Angola have well-founded reasons to suspect violation of the laws applicable to its internal waters, territorial sea or exclusive economic zone, vessels or aircraft duly identified and marked as being on the service of the Government of the State of Angola may pursue a foreign vessel beyond the boundaries of the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone, under the terms set forth in international law.

SECTION V
GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12
Delimitation

The State of Angola may negotiate or conclude agreements with neighbouring States regarding the delimitation of its maritime boundaries.

Article 13
Repeal of legislation

Decree-Law No. 159 of 6 November 1975 is hereby repealed, as is any other legislation that is incompatible with this Law.

Article 14
Publication and entry into force

This Law shall enter into force immediately.

Seen and approved by the People's Assembly.

To be published. Luanda, 11 April 1992.

The President of the Republic, José Eduardo dos Santos.