
Fifth Session Second Parliament Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 22 of 1986

[L.S.]

AN ACT to amend the Territorial Sea Act, Chap. 1:51

[Assented to 7th November, 1986]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment
follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Territorial Sea Short Title
(Amendment) Act, 1986.

Chap. 1:51
amended

2. The Territorial Sea Act is amended:

(a) by inserting in section 2 in alphabetical sequence the following new definition—

““contiguous zone” means that area contiguous to the territorial sea which does not extend beyond twenty-four nautical miles from the archipelagic baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured;”;

(b) by substituting for section 4 the following:

“Internal
waters

4. (1) The internal waters of Trinidad and Tobago shall include any areas of sea within its archipelagic waters that are on the landward side of the closing lines.

(2) In this section “closing lines” means the straight lines drawn in accordance with the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that—

- (a) cross the mouth of a river;
- (b) enclose a bay;
- (c) delimit the waters of a harbour.”;

(c) by substituting for section 5 the following:

“Baseline of
territorial
sea

5. (1) The baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea shall be measured shall be straight archipelagic baselines of Trinidad and Tobago.

(2) The archipelagic baselines of Trinidad and Tobago consist of straight baselines joining the outermost parts of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), a low-tide elevation that lies wholly or partly within the breadth of the sea which would be territorial sea if all low tide elevations were

disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth thereof, shall be treated as an island.”;

- (d) by inserting immediately after section 6 the following new section—

“Controls exercisable by the State

6A. (1) Where in the contiguous zone an officer referred to in subsection (2) has reasonable cause to suspect that the customs, revenue, immigration or health laws have been or are likely to be infringed by a vessel, such officer may stop, board and search the vessel and may direct that vessel to proceed to such place as he may specify.

(2) The officers to whom subsection (1) applies are—

- (a) members of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard;
 - (b) members of the Police Service;
 - (c) customs officers;
 - (d) any other person authorised in writing by the Minister to whom responsibility for National Security is assigned.”;
- (e) in section 7(1), by substituting for the words “For the purposes of this Act, the low water line in any specified area shall be” the following words:

“Where the low water line is being used as a means of measuring the closing line, the low water line shall be”;

- (f) by deleting section 8 thereof.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 18th day
of August, 1986.

R. L. GRIFFITH
Acting Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 28th day of October, 1986.

M. CARRINGTON
Acting Clerk of the Senate