


Width	MARITIME ZONES	DEFINITION	STATE LAW
	Inland waters	Inland waters are situated between the land and the normal base line (low water line), including in particular estuaries, ports and bays (with an opening of less than 24 nautical miles).	The sovereignty of a coastal State extends beyond its territory and its inland waters (and in the case of an archipelagic State, its archipelagic waters).
	Archipelagic waters	Archipelagic waters include the waters between the different islands of an archipelagic State, traced from the archipelagic baselines, which can be up to 100 nautical miles (and even 125 nautical miles for 3% of them).	An archipelagic State, made up entirely of islands, cannot contest the right of inoffensive passage of foreign vessels and aircraft. Polynesia and New Caledonia are not independent States and can therefore not be considered archipelagic States.
	Territorial waters	Territorial waters are a zone adjacent to the coastal territory and can extend to the upper limit of 12 nautical miles from the baseline.	Coastal States' sovereignty depends on the conditions established by international law which also touch upon superjacent airspace overlying the seabed or the subsoil of inland waters. The amplitude of this zone is determined by each State upon on which it depends.
	Contiguous waters	Contiguous waters extend up to 24 nautical miles beyond the territorial sea.	The coastal State can carry out certain controls (customs, fiscal audits etc.) and has the right to take legal action to punish offences which break the State's national laws.
	Protection zones	Protection zones are jurisdictions which extend beyond territorial waters.	
	Ecological Protection Zone (EPZ)	Ecological protection zones are situated between the territorial water boundary and high seas, within the upper limit of 188 nautical miles.	The ecological protection zone is a recent invention, based on the conditions set out in the UNCLOS Convention. It goes beyond the exclusive economic zone and includes the same laws. It is a declension of the EEZ, and authorises protective measures for the marine environment. The circumscription of this zone was made official in France in April 2003 in the Mediterranean Sea, followed by Croatia on 3 October 2003, and adding an ecological and fisheries protection zone (EFPZ) in the Adriatic Sea. A State which creates such a zone may have the power to carry out checks and give sanctions, equivalent to the powers it has within the EEZ. These measures are aimed at reducing the pollution of the Mediterranean coasts linked to illicit discharge outside of the contiguous zone.
	Fisheries Protection Zone (FPZ)	Fisheries protection zones vary in size.	The coastal States reserve the right to exclusive fishing.
	Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	The exclusive economic zone covers an area of up to 200 nautical miles, starting from the baseline, and includes the territorial sea.	The coastal State has the right to sovereignty for the exploitation, conservation and administration of natural living and non-living resources, superjacent waters, the seabed and the subsoil, whilst respecting economic activities, such as the production of energy from water, currents and the wind. The State has certain powers concerning the creation and use of artificial islands or other structures, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.
	Continental shelf	The continental shelf extends beyond the territorial sea to the edge of the continental margin, or up to 200 nautical miles, the greatest distance, and includes the seabed and the subsoil.	The State has rights and obligations in terms of the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources and other natural non-biological resources, as well as living organisms (only sedentary species).
	High seas	High seas refers to the marine areas extending beyond the inland waters, from the territorial seas of the different States and, where relevant, the exclusive economic zone.	In principle, the States only have legal powers (control and sanction) over vessels flying their own flag.