

Federal Law No. 19 of 1993 in respect of the delimitation of the maritime zone  
of the United Arab Emirates, 17 October 1993

We, Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates

Having perused

The Interim Constitution

Federal Law No. 1 of 1972 in respect of the Terms of Reference

Ministries and Ministers and its Amendments

Federal Law No. 45 of 1992 in respect of the Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

And acting upon the submission presented by the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs

approved by the Council of Ministers and sanctioned by the Federal Supreme Court,

Hereby promulgate the following Law

DEFINITIONS

Article 1

In the implementation of this Law, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and terms shall have the meanings hereunder assigned to

CHAPTER ONE  
INTERNAL WATERS

Article 2

The internal waters are the waters on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial



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CHAPTER FOUR  
CONTINENTAL SHELF

Article 17

Subject to articles 23/2 and 24 of this Law, the continental shelf of the State comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas extending beyond its territorial sea and considered a natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance

Article 18

The State shall exercise over its continental shelf sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring and exploiting its natural resources. These rights shall be exclusive to the State in the sense that no one shall exercise them without its express consent. These rights do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation

The natural resources referred to in the preceding paragraph consist of the mineral and other non-living resources of the seabed and subsoil together with the living organisms belonging to sedentary species, meaning the organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed and subsoil

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 19

The provisions of this Law pertaining to the delimitation of the maritime zones of the mainland shall be applicable to the delimitation of the maritime zones of islands belonging to the State

Article 20

1. In the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, the State shall have the exclusive right to construct, operate and use

(a) artificial islands

(b) Installations and structures for the purposes of scientific research, preservation of the environment or other economic purposes

in which it may take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the artificial islands, installations and structures. The State shall determine the breadth of the safety zones taking into account applicable international standards. The safety zones shall be designed to ensure that they are reasonably related to the nature and function of artificial islands, installations and structures and shall not exceed a distance of 500 metres around them, measured from each point of their outer edge, except where excess is authorized by generally accepted international

#### Article 22

The competent authorities in the State shall issue rules in respect of the following

1. The construction, erection or operation of installations or equipment or artificial islands in the continental shelf or exclusive economic zone with a view to exploring or exploiting their natural resources provided that these installations or equipment should not be erected in locations which would hamper access to the mainland or interfere with international navigation
2. The establishment of the safety zones referred to in article 21 of this Law
3. The instructions to be observed for the protection of the installations and equipment
4. The regulation or prevention of entry of vessels into the safety zones
5. The instructions to be followed with a view to protecting the living and non-living resources in the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf
6. The environment, scientific research and transfer of technology
7. Any other similar matter

#### Article 23

1. Where the territorial sea of the State is opposite or adjacent to the territorial sea of another State, the outer limit of the territorial sea of the State shall be the median line
2. In the absence of an agreement between the State and another opposite or adjacent State, the outer limit of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone shall be the median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines

#### Article 24

The State shall publish official charts to show accurately the outer limits of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf

#### Article 25

(a) The implementation of this Law shall not affect the validity of contracts and concessions concluded prior to its promulgation for the exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living resources in the maritime zones. It shall also not affect the constitutional rights and other rights acquired by the Emirates as a result of the exploitation of the living and non-living resources in their maritime zones or the rights which may be acquired by virtue of any agreements or contracts to be concluded

maritime boundaries between the

Article 26

Subject to the principles and rules of international law and without prejudice to the imposition of other penalties provided for by any other law or to a claim for damage

1. Any violation of the provisions of article 5 of this Law shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than three years and not exceeding seven years and a fine of not less than dirhams (DIRHAMS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND) and not exceeding dirhams 2,000,000.00 (DIRHAMS MILLION) or either of these penalties;

2. Any violation of the provisions of articles 13, 14, 18 and 20 of this Law shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than three years and not exceeding five years and a fine of not less than dirhams 50,000.00 (DIRHAMS FIFTY THOUSAND) and not exceeding dirhams 1,000,000.00 (DIRHAMS MILLION) or either of these penalties;

3. Any violation of the provisions of articles 9 and 15 of this Law shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and not exceeding three years and a fine of not less than dirhams 25,000 (DIRHAMS TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND) and not exceeding dirhams 1,000,000.00 (DIRHAMS ONE MILLION) or either of these penalties;

Article 27

This Law shall be published in the official Gazette and shall enter into force from the date of publication.