



Chapter II  
Internal waters

Article 2. The internal waters of the Syrian Arab Republic include the following:

- (a) The waters of bays situated along the coast of the Syrian Arab Republic and delimited between the coastline and the straight line joining the low-water mark of their natural entrance points;
- (b) Any shoal not more than 12 miles from the land or from any island of the Syrian Arab Republic, the waters being delimited between the coastline and the line reaching from the shoal on the outside;
- (c) Waters situated between the land and any island of the Syrian Arab Republic that is not more than 12 nautical miles from the land, its outermost line being reckoned at low water;
- (d) Waters between islands of the Syrian Arab Republic none of which is more than 12 nautical miles from the

- (f) The gathering of any information prejudicial to the defence or security of the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (g) The loading or unloading of any person, currency or commodity in violation of the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (h) Marine fishing in violation of Syrian laws and regulations;
- (i)

criminal jurisdiction aboard a ship passing through the territorial sea for the arrest of persons and the conduct of investigations in respect of any crime committed aboard the ship during its passage:

- (a) If the consequences of the crime extend to the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (b) If the intervention of the Syrian authorities has been requested by the master of the ship or by a diplomatic agent or consular officer of the flag State;
- (c) If the crime is of a kind prejudicial to the peace or security of the Syrian Arab Republic or to order in the territorial sea;
- (d) If such measures are necessary for the suppression of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances or any other illicit traffic.

Article 16. The competent Syrian authorities may request a foreign warship passing through the territorial sea to comply with Syrian laws and regulations, on pain of adoption of appropriate measures in respect of the ship.

Article 17. The flag State of a foreign warship or other government ship shall bear the full responsibility incurred as a result of non-compliance with Syrian laws and regulations concerning territorial waters.

Article 18. Subject to the provisions of articles 16 and 17 above, foreign warships or other foreign government ships shall enjoy the immunities recognized as international rights on condition of reciprocity.

#### Chapter IV The contiguous zone

Article 19. The contiguous zone, which lies beyond and is contiguous to the territorial sea, extends in the direction of the high seas for a distance of not more than 24 nautical miles, measured from the baselines.

Article 20. In the contiguous zone, the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic shall exercise the powers necessary to:

- (a)

Article 22. In its exclusive economic zone, the Syrian Arab Republic has:

- (a) Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing marine natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the seabed, the subsoil thereof and the superjacent waters or for carrying out other activities for the economic exploration and exploitation of that zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;
- (b) Jurisdiction with regard to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures, the conduct of marine scientific research and the adoption of measures for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Article 23.

- (a) No ships or aircraft other than those of the Syrian Arab Republic shall have the right to carry on exploration and exploitation of living or non-living resources in the economic zone except with the approval of the authorities concerned, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.
- (b) The competent Syrian authorities shall have the right to inspect, search, arrest and initiate legal action against foreign ships in case of violation of Syrian laws and regulations relating to the economic zone.
- (c) The Ministry of Defence, in coordination with the authorities concerned, shall determine the rules and practices which must be followed for the exercise of the rights laid down in the preceding paragraph in accordance with the rules and principles of international law.

Article 24.

- (a) The Council of Ministers shall, on the basis of a proposal by the authorities concerned in the Syrian Arab Republic, define the conditions for the laying of cables and pipelines through Syria's internal waters, territorial sea or exclusive economic zone.
- (b)

**Chapter VI**  
**The continental shelf**

Article 26. The continental shelf comprises the natural prolongation of Syrian maritime territory beneath the surface of the sea to the outer edge of the continental margin.

Article 27. The Syrian Arab Republic exercises sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources, both living and non-living.

Article 28. The rights of the Syrian Arab Republic over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation.

Article 29. The provisions of article 26 of the present Law shall apply mutatis mutandis to artificial islands, installations and structures on the continental shelf and all ships must respect the safety zones referred to in article 25, paragraph (b), and apply international standards regarding navigation in the vicinity of artificial islands, installations, structures and safety zones.

**Chapter VII**  
**Marine scientific research**

Article 30.

(a) No foreign natural or artificial person shall have the right to carry on sf0 g 388.44 18 13.384o2b.44syok384o2in4(f)-3( tv)-3(refi

research work which is the object of that notice.

(c) A suspension order issued pursuant to paragraph (b) above shall be lifted, and permission to continue the marine scientific research work granted, immediately upon compliance, by the grantee of the permit, with the required conditions.

(d) Orders for the suspension or discontinuance of marine scientific research and for the lifting thereof shall be issued by decision of the Council of Ministers on the basis of a proposal by the authorities concerned.

Article 32. Removal of scientific research installations and equipment:

(a) Unless otherwise agreed, grantees of permits shall be required to remove marine scientific research installations and equipment immediately upon the termination of the related wor

Article 37. A Syrian ship or aircraft may retain its nationality, although it has become a pirate ship or aircraft, so long as the competent authorities have not decided otherwise.

Article 38. The authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic may seize a pirate ship or aircraft, or a ship or aircraft taken by piracy and under the control of pirates, and arrest the persons and seize the property on board. The Syrian courts shall be competent to impose penalties on the perpetrators.

Article 39.

- (a) The competent authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate with other States in repressing:
  - (i) Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances on the high seas;
  - (ii) Unauthorized broadcasting on the high seas.
- (b) The criminal courts of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be competent to try persons who engage in unauthorized broadcasting on the high seas in the following cases:
  - (i) If the broadcasting vessel is flying the flag of the Syrian Arab Republic;
  - (ii) If the broadcasting vessel is registered in the Syrian Arab Republic;
  - (iii) If the person engaged in such broadcasting is a national of the Syrian Arab Republic;
  - (iv) If the broadcast can be received in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, causes interference in its communications of any nature or affects its national security.

Article 40.

- (a) The hot pursuit of any foreign ship may be undertaken by the competent Syrian authorities when they have good reason to believe that the ship has violated Syrian laws and regulations. Such pursuit must be commenced when the foreign ship or one of its boats or skiffs is within the internal waters, the territorial sea or the contiguous zone of the Syrian Arab Republic and may be continued outside the territorial sea or the contiguous zone if the pursuit has not been interrupted. It is not necessary that, at the time when the foreign ship within the territorial sea or the contiguous zone receives the order to stop, the ship and sw 2i10.02T0 cwr2 ref540 379345.order to stop, the ship



Article 43. Unauthorized broadcasting in the territorial sea shall be punishable by imprisonment for a period of six months to one year.

## Endnotes

### 1 (Note - Note)

Original: Arabic. Source: Official Gazette of the Syrian Arab Republic, no. 51/2003.