

**Law No. 77-926 delimiting the Maritime Zones placed under the National Jurisdiction of the Republic of Ivory Coast of 17 November 1977**

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**TITLE I  
THE TERRITORIAL SEA**

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**Article 1**

The outer limit of the territorial sea of the Republic of Ivory Coast is established at a distance of 12 nautical miles from the lowest water mark.

As concerns gulfs, bays, roadsteads, estuaries and in general all cases in which the coast is deeply indented, decrees shall determine the straight baselines from which that breadth is measured.

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**TITLE II  
TWO HUNDRED NAUTICAL MILES ZONE  
PLACED UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

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**Article 2**

For economic purposes, the Republic of Ivory Coast exercises jurisdiction over a maritime zone extending 200 nautical miles and called the exclusive economic zone.

The breadth of this zone, lying outside the territorial sea and adjacent to it, is measured from the baseline used to measure the territorial sea.

**Article 3**

Within the zone described in the preceding Article, the Republic of Ivory Coast exercises sovereign and exclusive rights as concerns:

1. The exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural living and non-living resources of the seabed, its subsoil, and superjacent waters;
2. Other activities involving the use of the said zone for economic purposes, including the production of energy from the water, currents, and winds;
3. The construction, establishment, and use of artificial islands, installations, and similar devices used for the purposes provided for by this Article, including related regulations on customs, tax, health, safety, and immigration matters.

These rights shall be exercised in the terms and conditions laid down by Articles 4 and 5 hereof.

**Article 4**

The pertinent provisions of Law No. 70-489 of August 3, 1970 establishing the Oil Code shall apply to the zone delimited in Article 2 above.

**Article 5**

Articles 129 and 130 of Law No. 61-349 of November 9, 1961, establishing the Merchant Marine Code to restrict fishing in territorial waters to Ivoirian vessels and, subject to reciprocity, to vessels of other States of equivalent recognized law, shall be applicable to the zone delimited in Article 2 above. Maritime fishing violations committed in such zones shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Law of November 9, 1961, specifically Articles 126-130 and 212-225. However, only the fines stipulated in the said Articles may be imposed.

**Article 6**

Throughout the zone delimited in Article 2 above, the Republic of Ivory Coast also reserves the right to take any measures and to undertake any action to prevent, reduce, or control pollution of the marine environment, irrespective of the source.

All scientific research activities conducted in the said zone shall be subject to the prior consent of the State, under the conditions established by decree.

**Article 7**

The sovereign rights exercised by the Republic of Ivory Coast in the zone delimited in Article 2 above shall not impede the exercise by all coastal or non-coastal States of the freedoms of navigation, overflight, and laying of submarine cable and pipelines, or impede other uses of the sea related to navigation and communications which are recognized as legitimate by international Law.

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**TITLE III**  
**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

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**Article 8**

With respect to adjoining coastal States, the territorial sea and zone referred to in Article 2 of this Law shall be delimited by agreement in conformity with equitable principles and using, if necessary the median line or the equidistance line, taking all pertinent factors into account.

**Article 9**

As necessary, decrees issued by the Council of Ministers shall specify the terms of application of this Law.

**Article 10**

All provisions contrary to this Law, particularly Decree No. 67-334 of August 1, 1967, are hereby rescinded.

**Article 11**

This Law shall be published in the Journal Officiel of the Republic of Ivory Coast and enforced as State law.