

Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act, 1977, No. 13 of 16 June 1977

An Act to make provision with respect to the Conservation and Management of the Fishery Resources of The Bahamas and to extend the limits of the jurisdiction of The Bahamas over such fishery resources and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

1. This Act may be cited as the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act, 1977.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

...

"continental shelf" means the continental shelf appertaining to The Bahamas, that is to say, the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coasts, but outside the territorial sea of The Bahamas, to a depth of two hundred metres or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources of the said areas;

...

11. (1) Subject to subsection (3), where the exclusive fishery zone of The Bahamas meets the limits of the territorial sea, continental shelf or exclusive fishery zone of a neighbouring state, to the extent only to which such limits are recognized by The Bahamas to be validly established pursuant to international law, the Governor-General may initiate and conduct negotiations with that state to establish the boundary of the exclusive fishery zone in relation to the territorial sea, continental shelf or exclusive fishery zone of that state.

(2) In the absence of agreement on the boundary of the exclusive fishery zone with the territorial sea, continental shelf or exclusive fishery zone of a neighbouring state, the following shall be the limits of the exclusive fishery zone -

(a) in the case of the fishery resources of the waters of the exclusive fishery zone, a line every point of which is twelve miles distant from the baseline from which the territorial sea of that state is drawn;

(b) in the case of the fishery resources of the seabed and subsoil -

(i) where there is a continuous continental shelf between The Bahamas and the neighbouring state, a line every point of which is equidistant from the edge of the Great and Little Bahamas Banks and the baselines from which the territorial sea limits of that state are drawn, and, in areas other than the Great and Little Bahamas Banks, a line every point of which is equidistant from the baselines respectively from which the territorial sea limits of the Bahamas and that state are drawn;

(ii) where there is not a continuous continental shelf between The Bahamas and the neighbouring state, the limits of the continental shelf of that state shall be as determined by international law:

Provided, however, that in contemplation of such agreement being reached the Governor-General may by order fix another limit temporarily or by interim agreement with the neighbouring state.

(3) The Governor-General in the exercise of his powers under this section shall take into account that The Bahamas has long exercised sovereignty over, and enjoys exclusive authority for the purposes of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing of, the Great and Little Bahamas Banks.

...