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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

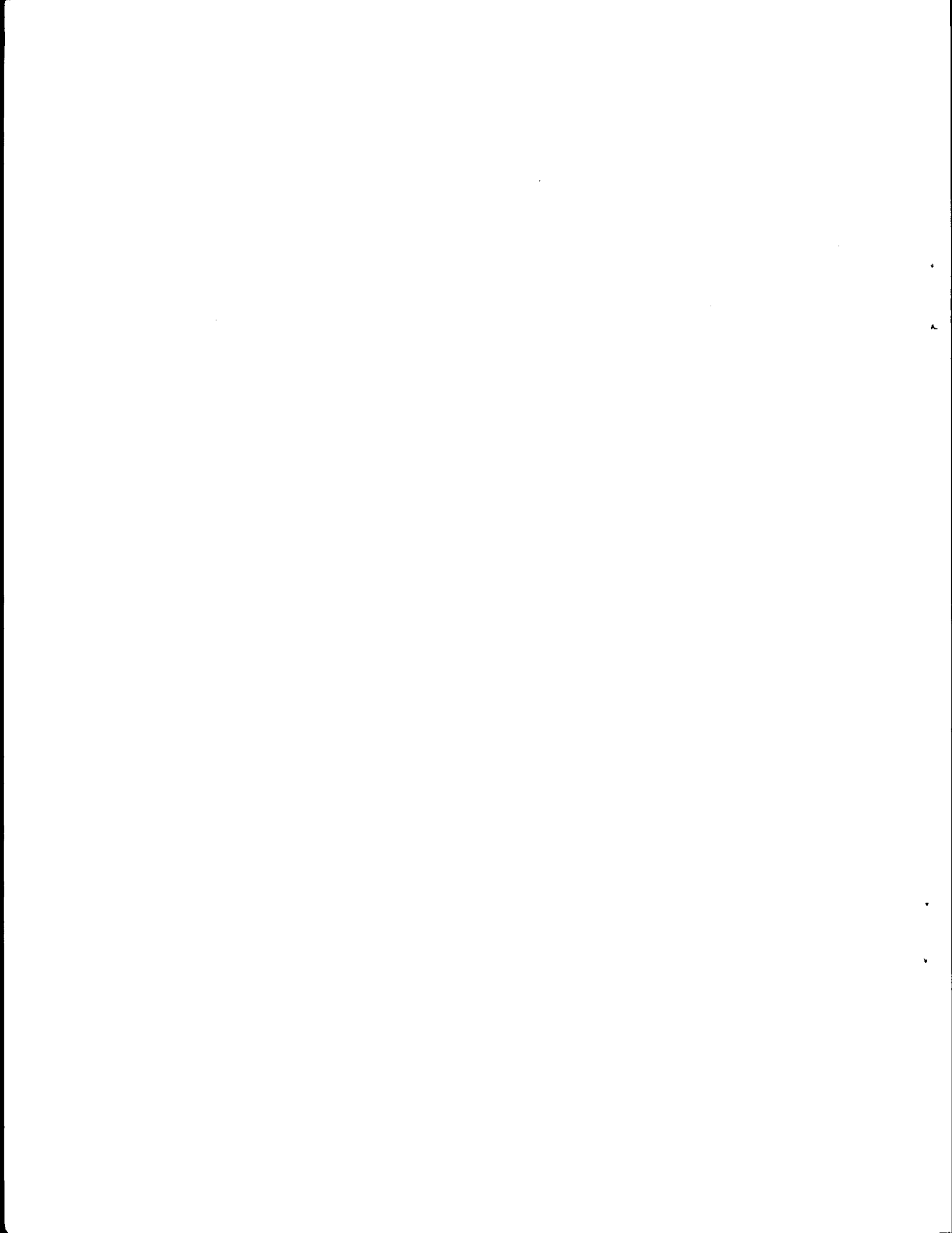
Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 47

*STRAIGHT BASELINES: SWEDEN*

The Geographer  
Office of the Geographer  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research



STRAIGHT BASELINES: SWEDEN

On June 3, 1966, the Kingdom of Sweden passed a law on the delimitation of the national territorial sea:

(b) ACT<sup>1</sup> No. 374 of 3 June 1966 Concerning the Territorial Waters of Sweden\*\*

*Article 1*

The territorial waters of Sweden shall comprise the internal waters and the territorial sea. In the direction of the open sea or the territory of another State, the territorial waters shall be bounded by the territorial limits.

*Article 2*

The internal waters shall include:

- (a) Lakes, watercourses and canals;
- (b) Harbours, bays and inlets situated along the coasts, and such water areas situated behind and between islands, holms and skerries as are bounded by straight lines determined by the King.

However, in the area between Klagshamn light and Kullen in the Sound, only harbours shall be included in the internal waters.

*Article 3*

The territorial sea shall include the water area situated outside the land areas and the internal waters of Sweden to a breadth of four nautical miles or 7,408 metres.

However, the territorial sea:

- (a) in the area nearest to the boundary with Norway, shall extend as far as a line at a distance of four nautical miles from and parallel to the straight line running through the northernmost of the skerries designated as "Stora Drammen" and the Hejeknubb half-submerged rock situated south-east of Heja Island;
- (b) in the Sound, shall not extend beyond the line in the longitudinal direction of the Sound which is specified in the Declaration between Sweden and Denmark of 30 January 1932 concerning the boundaries of the Sound;
- (c) in the Åland Strait, shall not extend beyond the boundary with Finland; shall
- (d) in the area nearest to the boundary with Finland in the Gulf of Bothnia, shall extend as far as a line at a distance of four nautical miles from and parallel to the straight line running from the southernmost skerry off Letto Island to the southernmost skerry off Selkäsarvi Island.

*Article 4*

In the use of land areas, the territorial sea shall be measured from the low-water line along the coast. Where, however, a skerry is exposed at low water but is submerged at half tide, the territorial sea shall be measured from such skerry only if it is situated at a distance of not more than four nautical miles from the nearest land area belonging to Sweden which is exposed at half tide.

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1. Svensk författningssamling 1966, No. 374. Came into force on 1 July 1966.





1	2	3	4
baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate position	
55	Stora Ivarn. South-east point	58°58.3'N	18°37.0'E
56	Själberget. South-east point	59°04.0'N	18°48.3'E
57	Österskår. South-east point	59°18.4'N	19°11.6'E
58	Söderbåden. South-east point	59°25.1'N	19°30.1'E
59	Ytterberget	59°37.2'N	19°38.7'E
60	Längden. North-north-east point	59°44.3'N	19°27.8'E
61	Tjärven. North-east point	59°47.6'N	19°22.4'E
62	Björkabåden. North-east point	59°53.6'N	19°05.8'E
63	Bysholmen. East point	60°02.4'N	18°51.7'E
64	Halsaren. East point	60°13.3'N	18°55.0'E
65	Travarbulten (Travarn). East point	60°14.4'N	18°55.2'E
66	Understen. East point	60°16.6'N	18°55.5'E
67	Klacken. North-east point	60°25.7'N	18°49.7'E
68	Högkallegrund. North-east point	60°31.0'N	18°30.2'E
69	Järngrund. North-east point	60°38.5'N	18°01.3'E
70	Löfgrunds rabbar. North-east point	60°49.3'N	17°31.3'E
71	Storskvalpet. East point	61°10.5'N	17°20.6'E
72	Hällgrund. Light	61°16.7'N	17°24.1'E
73	Agö. East point	61°32.6'N	17°28.3'E
74	Gåshällan. East-south-east point	61°43.4'N	17°33.6'E
75	Gran. East point	62°01.0'N	17°38.8'E
76	Brämön. East point	62°13.1'N	17°44.9'E
77	Svenskår. East point	62°30.7'N	17°53.8'E
78	Härnöklubb. South-east point	62°36.0'N	18°03.6'E
79	Guldgrundet. South-east point	62°51.3'N	18°28.3'E
80	Gnäggen. South-east point	62°56.7'N	18°37.5'E
81	Skags Flasor. South-east point	63°12.3'N	19°05.4'E
82	Själbådan. South-east point	63°15.1'N	19°12.0'E
83	Norra Långrogrundet. South-south-east point	63°19.3'N	19°40.9'E
84	Sydväsbrotten. South-east point	63°24.8'N	20°01.8'E
85	Sonnerstgrundkallen. South-east point	63°34.5'N	20°44.6'E
86	Svartbådahällan. South-east point	63°35.3'N	20°47.2'E
87	Jägarstenen.	63°40.4'N	20°55.5'E
88	Idmanskallen. East-south-east point	63°41.0'N	20°56.2'E
89	Stora Fjäderågg east. East point	63°48.6'N	21°01.2'E
90	Stora Fjäderågg north-east. East-north-east point.	63°48.8'N	21°01.0'E
91	Blankhällan. East point	63°59.0'N	20°54.9'E
92	Yttre Vänskår. South-east point	64°09.7'N	21°08.1'E
93	Blackallen. South-east point	64°20.1'N	21°31.2'E
94	Grundskaten. East-south-east point	64°26.0'N	21°37.1'E
95	Kapagrund. East point	64°27.3'N	21°37.4'E
96	Skötgrönnan. East point	64°35.7'N	21°30.6'E
97	Storgrundet. South-east point	64°52.2'N	21°18.2'E
98	Rönnskår. South-east point	65°01.9'N	21°34.1'E
99	Södra Bondökallarna. South-east point	65°07.7'N	21°53.4'E
100	Marakallen. South-east point	65°16.9'N	22°37.0'E
101	Mänshällorna. South point	65°27.8'N	22°46.2'E
102	Malören. South-south-east point	65°31.2'N	23°33.7'E
103	Letto. South point	65°35.2'N	23°57.2'E
<i>Gotland</i>			
104	Nyrevsudden. West-north-west point	57°32.1'N	18°06.5'E
105	Utholmen. West point	57°25.9'N	18°05.3'E
106	Lilla Karlsö west. West point	57°18.7'N	18°03.2'E
107	Lilla Karlsö. West-south-west point	57°18.6'N	18°03.3'E
108	Hammarudd. West point	57°15.5'N	18°05.6'E

1	2	3	4
Baseline point	Designation and description	Approximate position	
109	Näsrevet. West point	57°03.3'N	18°09.5'E
110	Hoburg. West point	56°55.2'N	18°07.5'E
111	Barshageudd. South point	56°54.4'N	18°11.7'E
112	Heligholmen. South-east point	56°55.3'N	18°17.3'E
113	Raudehunden. South-east point	56°57.6'N	18°21.4'E
114	Faludden. South-east point	56°59.7'N	18°24.1'E
115	Närsholmen. South-east point	57°13.4'N	18°42.1'E
116	Östergarn south. South point	57°25.8'N	18°59.3'E
117	Östergarn north-east. North-east point	57°26.8'N	18°59.5'E
118	Kyrkebingegrund. East point	57°33.7'N	18°49.3'E
119	Rute Missloper. South-east point	57°45.9'N	19°05.6'E
120	Holmudden. South-east point	57°57.5'N	19°21.2'E
121	Skärsändan. North point	57°59.2'N	19°18.5'E
122	Norsholmen. North point	57°59.9'N	19°14.6'E
123	Langhammarshammaren. North point	58°00.0'N	19°11.4'E
124	Hallshuk. North point	57°55.9'N	18°43.6'E

Since the 1934 version of the Swedish straight baselines was shown on large-scale nautical charts, the more recent version probably has been published. The Office of the Geographer has not, however, seen these sheets.

The new baseline system represents a marked modification of the 1934 system in that the number of points used has been drastically reduced and the length of lines significantly increased. The system, however, remains essentially compatible with the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. Furthermore, the system is very similar to those drawn by Norway and Finland (see attached chart).

#### ANALYSIS

A general analysis of the length and nature of the straight baselines within the system is given below:

Line	Length	Comments
1-2	1.5	Line 1-2 commences from a Norwegian islet; point one on the Swedish system is marked by the intersection of the line with the Norwegian-Swedish territorial sea boundary. This highly unusual system has been employed by Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Finland.
3-4	2.4	After a short discontinuity in the system, line 3-4 extends along a skerry-strewn coastline.
4-5	6.8	Generally parallels the mainland.
5-6	14.5	Center of the line is about 4.4 n.m. from the mainland.
6-7	13.8	1966 line is about 1.5 n.m. seaward of the 1934 line's deepest penetration (landward).
7-8	14.5	
8-9	12.5	
9-10	16.2	

Line	Length	Comments
10-11	23.6	This new segment, for example, replaces three segments situated landward of 10-11. The former turning points were situated between .2 and .9 n.m. shoreward of the 1966 line.
11-12	11.3	2.2 n.m. seaward of the apex of the previous lines.
12-13	7.0	
13-14	8.8	Coast is generally indented, but skerries exist only on near-shore.
14-15	7.5	
15-16	6.8	
16-17	5.8	
17-18	13.0	These two segments close dual bays, both of which are juridical bays.
18-19	14.5	
Sub-total (17)	<u>180.5</u>	The seventeen segments of straight baselines enclose, for all practical purposes, the entire Skagerak coast of Sweden within the system.
20-21	4.6	The two segments enclose a small juridical bay and harbor.
21-22	2.2	
22-23	2.2	The coastline is essentially featureless, and the justification of these lines is difficult to understand; the effects are minimal.
23-24	1.5	
25-26	1.1	
26-27	4.5	
27-28	4.3	
Sub-total (7)	20.4	There is a slight break between points 24 and 25.
29-30	15.0	Enclose Sölvborg Fjord which does not conform to juridical bay requirements unless the embayment is considered to be a multi-mouthed bay.
30-31	4.1	Slight discontinuity between points 31 and 32.
32-33	7.5	Closes Karlshamm fjord.
33-34	17.8	Entire coastline is skerry-fringed and deeply indented through point no. 37.
34-35	10.7	
35-36	.1	
36-37	4.8	
37-38	23.3	Joins the island of Öland to the mainland about 12.5 nautical miles seaward of 1934 line.
Sub-total (8)	<u>83.3</u>	
39-40	5.8	Skerries close on-shore.
40-41	1.8	
41-42	20.8	
42-43	3.4	Justification of certain segments difficult due to lack of fringing islands or <u>deep</u> indentations of coast, e.g., Bodo Bugt is not a juridical bay. Break of 3.5 n.m. in system at northeast tip of Öland.
43-44	5.4	

Line	Length	Comments
45-46	17.0	Rejoins Öland to the mainland about 8.5 n.m. north of the 1934 union.
46-47	6.0	
47-48	9.7	
48-49	30.0	The longest segment of the system; it is well short of the Norwegian maximum of 40.00 n.m. for a geographic line. It replaces six lines of the 1934 system extending baseline system about 2.7 n.m. seaward.
49-50	13.7	
50-51	25.8	
51-52	.1	
52-53	2.0	
53-54	21.7	
54-55	1.5	
55-56	8.2	Both points are symbolized as low-tide elevations as are others in the general system area.
56-57	18.8	
57-58	11.5	
58-59	13.0	
59-60	8.9	
60-61	4.4	
61-62	10.4	
62-63	11.4	
63-64	11.4	
64-65	1.0	
65-66	2.2	Fenno-Swedish island of Marken is not used as a basepoint in the system although used by the Finns.
66-67	19.5	
67-68	11.0	
68-69	16.4	
69-70	18.2	
70-71	21.9	
71-72	6.6	
72-73	15.7	
73-74	11.4	Central section of this line previously had no straight baseline.

Line	Length	Comments
74-75	18.0	
75-76	12.6	
76-77	17.7	
77-78	7.5	
78-79	19.0	
79-80	6.9	
80-81	20.1	
81-82	4.3	
82-83	13.5	Basepoint No. 83 is on an island which previously was situated 5.7 n.m. seaward of the 1934 straight baseline system.
83-84	10.8	Basepoint No. 84 is 3.5 n.m. seaward of previous straight baseline system.
84-85	21.5	Basepoints Nos. 85 and 86 were part of the 1934 system.
85-86	1.5	
86-87	6.2	
87-88	.7	
88-89	8.1	A slight discontinuity exists between Nos. 89 and 90.
90-91	11.0	
91-92	12.2	
92-93	14.5	Points 93 - 95 were in the previous system of straight baselines.
93-94	6.4	
94-95	1.3	
95-96	9.5	
96-97	17.0	
97-98	11.9	
98-99	5.1	
99-100	20.4	Basepoint No. 100 is about 5.9 n.m. seaward of point in previous system.
100-101	11.5	
101-102	20.1	Major deviation between the 1934 and 1966 systems. Newer one includes in Swedish territorial and internal waters a triangular area of c. 100 sq. n.m.
102-103	10.5	
103-	5.4	To Fenno-Swedish sea boundary.
Sub-total (63)	<u>711.8</u>	

Gotland

<u>Line</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Comments</u>
104-105	6.4	Coastline is only slightly indented.
105-106	6.8	Slight discontinuity in system between Nos. 106 and 107. System joins two small offshore islands to Gotland but leaves island of St. Karlsö beyond system.
107-108	3.3	
108-109	12.4	Difficult to justify, but the system has little effect on the territorial sea limit.
109-110	8.5	Encloses Burgs Viken, a juridical bay. Discontinuity to No. 111.
111-112	3.1	
112-113	4.4	Nos. 112-114 were part of 1934 system.
113-114	2.5	
114-115	17.0	
115-116	15.8	Slight discontinuity between Nos. 116 and 117.
117-118	9.0	
118-119	15.1	The two points form part of 1934 system; five intervening points, situated landward, have been omitted.
119-120	14.3	Slight break in system to No. 121.
121-122	2.3	These two lines enclose two small, juridical bays.
122-123	1.8	
123-124	15.4	Discontinuous to point of origin, Point No. 104 for a distance of about 32 n.m.
Sub-total (16)	<u>138.1</u>	
Total	<u>1,128.1 nautical miles</u>	with 111 segments.

SUMMARY

The Swedish straight baseline system of 1966 conforms generally with the Scandinavian pattern. In spite of the changes from the 1934 system, the length of lines remains essentially very short and they conform to a remarkable degree with the general direction of the coast criterion established in the Norwegian Fisheries Case and in the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. The longest straight-baseline segment measures approximately 30 nautical miles. The average length of line is slightly more than ten nautical miles. This average is comparable with other systems which may be judged conformal to the international practices of West European states. The system covers virtually the entire coastline of Sweden. Only in the extreme south and along the west coast of Gotland have important areas been left without straight baselines. Elsewhere, areas which do not contain deeply indented coasts or fringes of islands are enclosed occasionally within the system; however, the effects of these lines are minimal in extending the outer limit of the territorial sea. According to the descriptions, the turning points are high-tide elevations or contain navigation lights. On the charts, however, a number are symbolized as low-tide elevations.

Sweden is not a party to the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone.

