

Law No. 76-655 of 16 July 1976
relating to the Economic Zone off the coasts of the territory of the Republic

Article 1

The Republic shall exercise, in the economic zone which may extend up to 188 nautical miles from the outer limit of the territorial sea, sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the seabed and its subsoil and the superjacent waters. These rights shall be exercised under the conditions and according to the terms laid down in the following Articles.

Article 2

The provisions of Law No. 68-1181 of December 30, 1968 relating to the exploration of the Continental Shelf and to the Exploitation of its Natural Resources, shall apply, with the exception of Article 1, to the seabed and subsoil of the economic zone defined in Article 1.

Article 3

The provisions of the Decree of January 9, 1852 on the Exercise of Maritime Fisheries, as amended, and the Law of March 1, 1888 Prohibiting Fishing by Foreign Nationals in Territorial Waters, as amended, shall apply to the economic zone defined in Article 1.

Nevertheless, as far as offences committed in this zone are concerned:-

(1) The penalties laid down in the first paragraph of Article 6 of the Decree of January 9, 1852 shall be replaced by a fine of from F 1,800 to 36,000 and the penalties laid down in the second, third and fifth paragraphs of the same Article by a fine of from F 720 to 14,400;

(2) The penalties laid down in the third paragraph of Article 2 of the Law of March 1, 1888 shall be replaced by a fine of from F 8,000 to 160,000.

In addition, the penalties laid down in Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Law No. 66-400 of June 18, 1966 on the Exercise of Maritime Fisheries and the Exploitation of Marine Products in French Territory in the Southern Hemisphere and Antarctic shall be replaced, for offences committed in the economic zone off this territory, by the following fines:

Article 4: F 4,000 to 20,000;

Article 5: F 2,000 to 60,000;

Article 6: F 20,000 to 60,000;

Article 7: F 2,000 to 60,000;

Article 8: F 2,000 to 10,000;

Article 9: double the greatest fine laid down in each of articles 5-8.

Article 4

In the economic zone defined in Article 1, the French authorities shall exercise the jurisdiction recognised by international law relating to the protection of the marine environment.

Article 5

The Conseil d'Etat shall determine by Decree the conditions and dates for the entry into force of the provisions

of the present Law relating to the economic zone off the different coasts of the territory of the Republic.

The present Law shall be carried out as a law of the State.