



Baseline and Types of Baselines

A baseline, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is the line along the coast from which the seaward limits of a state's territorial sea and certain other maritime zones of jurisdiction are measured.

- **Normal baseline** measure from the low water line along the coast of the state.
- **Straight baselines** measure a series of straight lines joining specified points, headlands and islands, lying on the low-water line for localities with indented coasts.
- **Bay closing lines** are established across the mouth of the bay and will constitute the baseline.

Prohibition over 18m Irish fishing vessels trawling within 6nm (Policy Directive 1/2019)

All masters of Irish fishing vessels exceeding 18m in overall length will/have received the following condition on their licence. Trawling activity is prohibited for Irish fishing vessels over 18m in overall length from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, in any part of the exclusive fishery limits of the State inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines. The six nautical mile zone is a belt of coastal waters extending for 6nm from the baselines of the Irish coast.

Exemption for Sprat Authorisation

Masters of Irish fishing trawling vessels over 18m in overall length with authorisations to target sprat subject to catch limits can fish in any part of the exclusive fishery limits of the Irish State within 6nm from baselines. The sprat authorisation may be determined by the Minister from time to time.

Prohibition non-Irish fishing vessels fishing within 6nm

All masters of non-Irish registered fishing vessels are prohibited from fishing in any part of the exclusive fishery limits of the State within the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines.

Northern Ireland fishing vessels

Fishing vessels owned and operated in Northern Ireland must comply with the obligations and restrictions applicable to Irish fishing vessels, and while that Northern Ireland vessel is within the area between the 0-6 nautical mile zone, measured from the baselines, of Ireland's EEZ.

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