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4th Session Second Parliament Trinidad and Tobago  
18 Elizabeth II

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 38 of 1969

[L.S.]

AN ACT to make provision with respect to the Territorial  
Sea of Trinidad and Tobago.

[Assented to 6th December, 1969]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Enactment  
by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and  
House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, and  
by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Territorial Sea Act, Short title  
and Commence-  
ment  
1969.

(2) This Act shall come into force on such day as  
the Governor-General may appoint by Proclamation  
published in the *Gazette*.

## Interpretation

## 2. In this Act—

“Island” means a naturally formed area of land which is surrounded by and above water at mean high-water spring tides;

“low-water line” has the meaning assigned thereto by section 7;

“low-tide elevation” means a naturally formed area of land which is surrounded by, and above water at mean low-water spring tides but is submerged at mean high-water spring tides;

“nautical mile” means the international nautical mile.

Territorial  
Sea

3. The Territorial Sea of Trinidad and Tobago comprises those areas of the sea having as their inner limits the baselines defined in section 5 and as their outer limits, a line measured seaward from that baseline, every point of which is distant twelve nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline so, however, that where the outer limits of the territorial sea of Trinidad and Tobago intersect foreign territorial waters the outer limits thereof shall be resolved through agreements or other means recognised by international law.

## Internal waters

4. The internal waters of Trinidad and Tobago shall include any areas of the sea that are on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of Trinidad and Tobago.

Baseline of  
Territorial  
Sea

5. (1) The baselines from which the territorial sea shall be measured shall be—

(a) the low-water line along the coasts of the island of Trinidad and of the island of Tobago as well as the coast of all other islands that form part of Trinidad and Tobago; and

(b) the straight baselines drawn from points shown on a large scale Government Map of Trinidad and Tobago in localities where the coast line is deeply indented and cut into or if there is a fringe of islands in its immediate vicinity.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), a low-tide elevation that lies wholly or partly within the breadth of

the sea which would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth thereof, shall be treated as an island.

6. The seabed or sub-marine areas bounded on the landward side by the baselines referred to in section 5 and on the seaward side by the outer limits of the territorial sea shall be deemed to be and always to have been vested in Her Majesty in right of Her Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Bed of territorial sea and internal waters vested in Her Majesty

7. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the low-water line in any specified area shall be the line of low-water at mean low-water spring tides as depicted on the largest scale Trinidad and Tobago Government nautical chart for the time being of that area or, where no such chart of that area exists, the largest scale British Admiralty Chart for the time being of that area.

Official charts

(2) In any proceedings in any Court a certificate purporting to be signed by the Minister of Home Affairs or a person authorised by him that—

(a) any specified Trinidad and Tobago Government Nautical Chart of any area is the largest scale Trinidad and Tobago Government Nautical Chart for the time being of that area; or

(b) no Trinidad and Tobago Government nautical chart for any area exists and that any specified British Admiralty Chart of that area is the largest scale British Admiralty Chart for the time being of that area,

shall be admissible as evidence of the matter stated in the certificate.

(3) Every person signing any such certificate shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be presumed to be duly authorised to sign it.

8. For the purposes of this Act, permanent harbour works which form an integral part of a harbour system shall be treated as forming part of the coast.

Permanent Harbour works

9. This Act binds the Crown.

Act binds the Crown

10. The several enactments mentioned in the first column of the Schedule are hereby amended to the extent set out in the second column of the said Schedule:

Amendments

## SCHEDULE

<i>Interpretation Act, 1962</i>	<i>First Column</i>	<i>Second Column</i>
	Section 50	By inserting in its appropriate alphabetical order the following definitions—
		(vv) “Territorial Sea of Trinidad and Tobago” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Territorial Sea Act, 1969; and in all Acts passed before the commencement of that Act unless the context otherwise requires, the expressions “territorial waters”, “waters of Trinidad and Tobago” and analogous expressions have the same meaning;
		(vvv) “Trinidad and Tobago” means the islands of Trinidad and Tobago and includes the territorial seas of Trinidad and Tobago as defined in section 3 of the Territorial Sea Act, 1969 and in all Acts passed before the commencement of that Act unless the context otherwise requires, the expressions “territory of Trinidad and Tobago”, “the country” and analogous expressions have the same meaning.”.

Passed in the Senate this 5th day of November, 1969.

J. E. CARTER

*Clerk of the Senate*

Passed in the House of Representatives this 21st day of November, 1969.

G. R. LATOUR

*Clerk of the House*