

Paris, 22 October 2020

NOTE FROM THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES

Re: Note from the French authorities on the digital representation of French maritime limits in documents produced by European Union institutions

Annex: Practical links for using the French national portal on maritime limits

In their activities, European Union organizations, services and portals are required to represent maritime limits and boundaries of Member States.

However, on several occasions, French authorities have noted that representations of French maritime limits were imprecise, erroneous or not updated, thereby leading to misunderstandings with other States relating to the management of national coastal and maritime policies and the application of European directives, particularly when it comes to cross-border situations.

Among other things, the management of shipping safety and security, maritime economic activities, protection of marine ecosystems and habitats, the planning of maritime spaces and studies on the impact on the Natura 2000 areas are concerned.

Therefore, the French authorities request that the digital representations of its maritime limits use as their source the national portal *limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr* or *maritimelimits.gouv.fr* and that the address of this source be routinely mentioned when there is any representation of French maritime spaces so that users can access updated data under the control of the French Republic.

They indicate that in line with the public data digitization strategy, an online portal was created in 2018 that provides information, charts and reference data concerning maritime delimitations: *limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr*; *maritimelimits.gouv.fr*.

This portal is run by the French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM) (www.shom.fr). Data is provided free of charge, in French and English. This data is accessible on the portal in the form of a database or flows. It is also possible to create one's own charts with an interactive tool. In addition to charts and data, direct links to official texts are provided.

For all information on using the portal, the following point of contact has been established: <https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr/contact>

The French authorities are at the disposal of the Commission and the Agency to provide them with any further information they need.

ANNEX

Practical links for use of the French national portal on maritime limits;

Find the map of the maritime spaces of a French territory;

<https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr/ressources/cartotheque>

*English version

<https://maritimelimits.gouv.fr/resources/chart-catalogue>

Make your own interactive chart;

<https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr/carte-interactive>

*English version

<https://maritimelimits.gouv.fr/interactiv-chart>

Legal references in force and limits between neighbouring States;

<https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr/ressources/references-legales-en-vigueur-limites-despace-maritime>

*English version

<https://maritimelimits.gouv.fr/resources/current-legal-references-french-maritime-limits>

Description of the process of defining the French maritime limits;

<https://limitesmaritimes.gouv.fr/pour-en-savoir-plus/les-acteurs-et-le-processus-de-definition-des-espaces-maritimes-francais>

*English version

<https://maritimelimits.gouv.fr/find-out-more/delineation-methods-french-maritime-spaces>

