Maritime boundary delimitation of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia a study in political geography

Al-Muwaled, Faraj Mobarak Jam’an

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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<th>Straight Baselines</th>
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<td>Territorial Sea Limits</td>
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<td>L.H.</td>
<td>Lighthouses</td>
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<td>Reef</td>
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* Saudi Arabia 1958 Straight Baselines

---

* Saudi 1958 SB* — The 12 nm TS

---

Theoretical SB Based on the 1982 Convention

---

The 12 nm TS

---

Saudi 1958 SB* — The 12 nm TS
Figure 1.1

THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF
IRAQ
SAUDI ARABIA

JORDAN

THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF
IRAQ
SAUDI ARABIA

Skaka
Tayma
Hal
khaybar
Madina
Shagra
UAE
Kharj

25°

Jeddah

1902
1904
1906
1913
1919
1920
1921
1925
1926
1934

30°

Nairan

CP

1919
1920
1921
1925
1926
1934

Adapted from Bindagji, 1978
Figure 2.1

a) Shi'b Al-Kabir at High Tide

b) A close view to Shi'b Al-Kabir

c) Another close view to the Shi'b

d) The eastern part of the Shi'b

The pictures taken by the author in a field work visit
Figure 2.2
THE WATERS OF THE BAYS ALONG THE COAST
OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Figure 2.3(a)
THE WATERS ABOVE AND LANDWARD OF ANY SHOAL
NOT MORE THAN 12 NM FROM THE MAINLAND
Figure 2.3(b)

The waters above and landward from any shoal not more than 12 NM from a Saudi island.

Figure 2.4

Port confronts the open sea: lines shown along the seaward side of the outermost works of the port.
Figure 2.5
THE WATERS BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND A SAUDI ISLAND NOT MORE THAN 12 NM FROM THE MAINLAND

Figure 2.6
GROUP OF ISLANDS CONNECTED BY LINES NOT MORE THAN 12 NM LONG AND THE NEAREST ISLAND IS NOT MORE THAN 12 NM FROM THE MAINLAND
Figure 2.7
THE WATERS BETWEEN SAUDI ISLANDS
NOT FURTHER APART THAN 12 NM

Figure 2.8
GROUP OF ISLANDS CONNECTED BY
LINES NOT MORE THAN 12 NM LONG
Figure 2.9

AN AREA OF HIGH SEA WHOLLY SURROUNDED BY THE TERRITORIAL SEA WHICH EXTENDS NOT MORE THAN 12 NM IN ANY DIRECTION
Figure 2.10

DEPTHS IN METRES

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PORTS AUTHORITY

RED SEA
SAUDI ARABIAN COAST
MADIQ TIRÁN
TO DUBÁ

DEPTHS IN METRES
Figure 2.14

a) Islands masking the mainland coast by more or less forming a unity with the mainland

b) Islands masking the mainland coast by creating a fringe

Source: US Department of State, 1987
Figure 2.16

DEPTHS IN METRES

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PORTS AUTHORITY

RED SEA
SAUDI ARABIAN COAST
SHI'B ASH-SHARM
TO MARSÁ TUWÁL

DEPTHS IN METRES
Figure 2.17

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PORTS AUTHORITY

RED SEA
SAUDI ARABIAN COAST

MARSÁ TUWÁL
TO SHI'B NÁZÁR

DEPTHS IN METRES

CO

3

CO

18

Kilometres

nautical miles

DEPTHS IN METRES
Figure 2.21

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PORTS AUTHORITY

RED SEA
SAUDI ARABIAN COAST
RA'S KISHRAN
TO AT-TAWILAH

DEPTHS IN METRES

DEPTHS IN METRES
Figure 2.23

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ports Authority

Red Sea
Saudi Arabian Coast

Jabal as-Sabaya to Sumayr

DEPTHS IN METRES

TS
SB
Figure 2.24

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PORTS AUTHORITY

RED SEA
SAUDI ARABIAN COAST

SUMAYR
TO RA'S RASIB

DEPTHS IN METRES
Figure 2.27

Straight Baselines in RED SEA
Figure 2.28

MADIQ TIRAN TO DUBA
(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)

- 1982 UNCLOS SB.
- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
- 1958 Saudi SB.
- 1958 Saudi TS.

kilometres

nautical miles
Figure 2.29

RA'S ABU MUSARIB TO RA'S MARJAH
(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)

- 1982 UNCLOS SB.
- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
- 1958 Saudi SB.
- 1958 Saudi TS.

Kilometres

North miles
Figure 2.31

- 1982 UNCLOS SB.
- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
- 1958 Saudi SB.
- 1958 Saudi TS.

JAZIRAT BIRRIM
TO RA'S ABU MADD
(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)
Figure 2.33

SHI' B ASH-SHARM
TO MARSA TUWAL
(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)

1982 UNCLOS SB.
1982 UNCLOS TS.
1958 Saudi SB.
1958 Saudi TS.
MARSA TUWAL

TO SHI'B NAZAR

(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)

--- 1982 UNCLOS SB.
--- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
--- 1958 Saudi SB.
--- 1958 Saudi TS.

Figure 2.34
Figure 2.35

SHI' B NAZAR TO SHI' B AL-KABIR
(RED SEA COAST)
Figure 2.36

SHIB AL KABIR TO OUT'AT UMM AL JADD
SAUDI RED SEA COAST
Figure 2.37

OUT AT UMM AL-JADD TO SHI'B AT TAWAMAN

1982 UNCLOS SB.
--- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
--- 1958 Saudi SB.
--- 1958 Saudi TS.

10 nautical miles

kilometres

0 10 20
0 5 10
Figure 2.38

RA'S KISHRAN TO AT-TAWILAH
(SAUDI RED SEA COAST)

1982 UNCLOS SB.
1982 UNCLOS TS.
1958 Saudi SB.
1958 Saudi TS.

10 kilometers
10 nautical miles

OAD HUMAYS
SHI' B
AT-TAWAMAN
AL-LITH
MARMAR
JAZIRAT
AL-JADIR
Malathu
JAZIRAT
DUHRAH
JAZIRAT
SIRAYN
AT-TAWILAH
JAZIRAT
AL-JABBARAH

100
50
0
Figure 2.42

ABU KHAABBAN TO SAYYIR
(SOUTH ASIA COAST)

- 1982 UNCLOS SB.
- 1982 UNCLOS TS.
- 1958 Saudi SB.
- 1958 Saudi TS.

MAP:
- MATAHAYN
- MATHAN
- AL-BAGHLAH
- DISAN
- SARAH
- DHAAL-FAIF
- SAYYIR
- FARASAN
- SHURA
- FINAN
- KINAN
- HATAHAYN
- RIKBAYN
- ABIR SAYYIR
Figure 2.45

RA'S ABU ALI
RA'S AL JU'AYMAH
FASHT AL JARIM TO RA'S ABU ALI
(ISRAEL ARABIAN GULF COAST)

THE ARABIAN GULF

1982 UNCLOS SB.
1982 UNCLOS TS.
Figure 3.3

KING FAHAD CAUSEWAY BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE GULF OF AQABA

KING FAHAD CAUSEWAY PLAN BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT

SOURCE: Al-Sayf, 1990
Figure 3.4

Source: ICJ, 1983

Qatar–Abu Dhabi Continental Shelf Boundary
Bathymetric Chart of the Red Sea
(From data supplied by Admiralty Chart C 6359)

Source: Morley, 1975
Source: ICJ, 1983

Saudi Arabia-Iran Continental Shelf Boundary
Figure 6.3

Legend

- Producing well
- Dry hole
- Well drilling in mid-1962
- Agreement area boundary

Source: Nahai, L. and Kimbell, C., 1963

Detailed Map of Offshore Concession Areas in Iran
Figure 6.4

Overlapping Oil Concession Areas in the Upper Gulf

Source: Swearing, 1981
Figure 6.5

JORDAN-SAUDI ARABIA BOUNDARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan-Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Boundary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Boundary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other International Boundary</td>
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<td>Turning point</td>
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BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Jordan-Saudi Arabia boundary has been re-delineated as a result of a bilateral agreement signed on August 10, 1965. The new boundary measures approximately 462.4 miles from the Iraq tripoint at Jabal 'Anazah to the Gulf of Aqaba, the latter approximately 11 miles south of the Jordanian port of Aqaba (Al 'Aqabah). The precise position of this terminal point is not yet certain.

Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State.
Figure 6.7

SAUDI ARABIA–QATAR BOUNDARY

Source: Al-Sayf 1990 based on Saudi Arabia–Qatar boundary map no. GF 222Y issued 1965
Plate Tectonics and Formation of the Red Sea

Source: Abunafeesa, 1985
Discovery of Brine Deeps and/or Metalliferous Sediments

Source: Blessenbach and Nawab, 1982
**Figure 8.1**

**KUWAIT - SAUDI ARABIA BOUNDARY**
- Kuwait-Saudi Arabia boundary
- Former Neutral Zone boundary
- Other international boundary
- Boundary point
- Road
- Well
- Oilfield
- Pipeline

**BOUNDARY BRIEF**
The Kuwait-Saudi Arabia boundary is 101 miles in length and is demarcated. Beginning at the quadrilateral of the Kuwait-Iraq, Iraq-Neutral Zone, and the Neutral Zone, the boundary runs in a straight line across the extension of 29°00' North Latitude and 47°18'15.08" East Longitude. The boundary then trends south-southwestward in a straight line approximately 28 miles to 29°31'36.32" North Latitude and 47°47'23.135" East Longitude. The boundary then turns due east in a straight line a distance of 33.5 miles where it terminates on the crest at 29°32'10.68" North Latitude and 48°15'59.019" East Longitude.

**Source of data:** Office of the Geographer, Department of State
Figure 8.2

Kuwait, Showing the 1913 Red and Green lines, the Former Neutral Zone, and the 1991 Demilitarised Zone

Source: Blake, 1991
Figure 8.3

THE SAUDI ARABIA–KUWAIT MARITIME BOUNDARY
Figure 8.4

TRACING OF VARIOUS PROPOSED MEDIAN LINES (SAUDI LINE, RATIONALISED LINE, ANGLO-US TALKS LINE, LINE TAKING ACCOUNT OF BILDANI REEFS) FOR THE KUWAIT-SAUDI ARABIA NEUTRAL ZONE SEABED DIVISION, APRIL 1959

SOURCE: Schofield, 1990
THE LANDSCAPE OF IMENAH ISLAND (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

FISHING ACTIVITIES IN AL-QADIYAH (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

BIRDS AT AL-DAHRAH ISLAND (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

ISLAND WITH CIRCULAR SHAPE (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)
ANOTHER VIEW TO AL-DAHRAH ISLAND

AL-JA'AFARI IS A VERY LONG ISLAND

Figure 8.6

FISHING ACTIVITIES ON AL-JA'AFARI ISLAND (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

A VIEW FROM AL-ASHIQ ISLAND SHOWS AN ISLAND AS A WHITE LINE ON THE PICTURE (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)
PART OF AL-ASHIQ ISLAND COAST

SAUDI PART ON RUMAYN ISLAND (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

MARRYN ISLAND (SAUDI SOUTHERN RED SEA)

VEGETATION ON RAMAYN ISLAND

Figure 8.7
Figure 8.8

TERRITORIAL STATUS IN SOUTH WESTERN ARABIA AT THE END OF THE 1920'S

Source: Robertson, 1979
Figure 9.1

Maritime zones of Saudi Arabia according to the 1982 convention

Maritime zones according to Saudi Arabia decrees

Maritime zones according to the 1982 convention

Adapted from Al-Sayf, 1990

TS - Territorial Sea
CZ - Contiguous Zone
EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone
EFZ - Exclusive Fishing Zone
HS - High Sea
Figure 9.2

MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND ECONOMIC ZONES

(1) Boundary agreed: But Morjan oil field divided

(2) Boundary agreed: Joint zone undivided but oil revenues shared

(3) Boundary agreed: But oil exploitation restricted on either side

(4) Boundary undecided: Common mineral zone defined depth

Agreed boundary  Joint Economic/Development Zone
Restricted exploitation zone

(1) Example of Saudi-Iran (1969)
(2) Example of Saudi-Bahrain (1958)
(3) Example of Saudi-Iran (1969)
(4) Example of Saudi-Sudan (1974)
Source: 1) Blake, 1987
2) ICJ, 1983 (1)
Figure 9.3

**Methods Used in the 1974 Saudi Arabia–UAE Agreement**

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<td>B</td>
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1. State A Prohibited From Exploiting the Hydrocarbon

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2. The Oil Field Ceded to One State

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3. Exchange Land by a Portion of Sea

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4. Island Owned by State A, but State B enjoy the Right of Using it

---

Agreed Boundary

---

The Boundary Before 1974 Agreement
Middle East Offshore Oil Production

Average (000 b/d)

Countries

Egypt Iran Neutral Zone Qatar Saudi Arabia UAE

Years


Source: Offshore, June 1990

Middle East Continental Shelf Resources

The Continental Shelf in Some Middle Eastern States

Nautical Miles (000)

Countries

Yemen Libya Saudi Iran Oman Egypt Sudan Kuwait