



# *International Boundary Study*

Series A

## **Limits in the Seas**

No. 2 – January 22, 1970

### **Norway – Sweden**

#### *Continental Shelf Boundary*

(Country Codes: NO-SW)

**The Geographer  
Office of the Geographer  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

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#### **CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: NORWAY-SWEDEN**

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## **NORWAY - SWEDEN CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY**

The Government of Norway and the Government of Sweden entered into an Agreement to divide the continental shelf of the Skagerak on July 24, 1968. The Agreement was ratified by the Swedish Government on December 5, 1968, and by the Norwegian Government on March 18, 1969.

### **AGREEMENT**

The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway,

which have decided to determine the boundaries between the areas of the continental shelf over which Sweden and Norway respectively exercise sovereign rights concerning exploration and utilization of natural resources,

have agreed on the following:

#### **Article 1:**

The boundary between those areas of the continental shelf over which Sweden and Norway, respectively, exercise sovereign rights concerning exploration and utilization of natural resources is in principle to be a mid-line, so determined that each point on this line is located on the very same distance from the closest points on those basic lines from which the breadth of Sweden's and Norway's territorial waters, respectively, are estimated,

#### **Article 2:**

In accordance with the decided principle in Article 1, but with certain deviations in order to obtain a practical drawing of a borderline adapted to its purposes, the line is to be drawn between the following five points:

1. The most western point of the outer border of Sweden's territorial waters toward Norway. This point has the following coordinates:

58°54'50,2" N., 10°45'28,1" O

2. That point where the borderline, according to the International Arbitration on October 23, 1909 concerning the determination of a part of the territorial waters between Sweden and Norway, meets the outer border of Norwegian territorial waters, drawn in a distance of one geographical mile (7,420 meters) from the Norwegian baseline, as it was determined in Kgl. Resolusjon of July 18, 1952 on the fishery border south for Traena (Norsk Lovtidend, 1952, 2. avd., side 824 flg.) The point has the following coordinates:

58°53'34,0" N, 10°38'25,0" O

3. The intersectional point of a line drawn at a distance of 12 nautical miles from the above-mentioned Norwegian baseline, and a line drawn at a distance of 12 nautical miles from the Swedish baseline, which was determined in the Kungliga Kungorelsen June 3, 1966 including detailed regulations on determination of Swedish territorial waters. (Svensk Forfattningssamling nr. 375). The point has the following coordinates:

58°45'41,3" N, 10°35'40,0" O

4. The point has the following coordinates:

58°30'41,2" N, 10°08'46,9" O

5. The point has the following coordinates:

58°15'41,2" N, 10°01'48,1" O

The positions of the five points mentioned above have been defined in relation to European Datum (Forsta Utjamning, 1950).

The borderlines between the points 1, 2 and 3 are drawn as straight lines (compass lines), and between 3, 4 and 5 as great circle curves.

### **Article 3:**

The positions of points 1-5 defined in Article 2 appear on the enclosed chart (Norwegian chart No. 305). The borderlines determined in the same article, also appear on the chart.

### **Article 4:**

In case natural resources are found on the sea bottom or in the layers under the sea bottom on both sides of the borderline determined in Article 2; and in case the natural resources that are located in the continental shelf area of one state can be explored completely or partly from the other state's area, both states are, upon the request from one state, to seek an agreement on the most efficient way of utilizing these resources, and distributing the yield.

### **Article 5:**

The agreement is to be ratified, and the ratification instruments exchanged in Oslo. The agreement will be effective the day the ratification instruments are exchanged.

The preceding agreement signed in Stockholm on July 24, 1968, with copies in both the Swedish and Norwegian languages, both texts have the same wording.

## ANALYSIS

The Continental Shelf Boundary (CSB) encompasses 5 terminal or turning points that extend for a distance of 48 nautical miles from Point 1. Point 1 marks the seaward terminus of the Norwegian-Swedish international maritime boundary, as delimited by Norwegian and Swedish agreements of 1661, 1897, 1904 and the Arbitral Award of October 23, 1909.

Article 1 of the Agreement on the Continental Shelf states that the equidistant principle is to be employed in dividing the continental shelf. However, Article 2 contains certain deviations from the equidistant principle which are employed to obtain a practical drawing of the five pertinent points and connecting lines. Therefore, the cartographic representation of the CSB on the attached map does not meet the precise requirements of the stated principle because in most instances the terminal or turning point is not equidistant from Norwegian and Swedish territory. The inaccuracy of the cartographic representation is also due partially to the use of a Mercator projection. The Mercator projection utilized in the making of hydrographic charts has appreciable distortion of scale in the higher latitudes.

**Table 1. Physical Characteristics of the Terminal or Turning Points**

<u>Point</u>	<u>Depth (fathoms)</u>	<u>Distance between Points (nautical miles)</u>
1	50	4
2	74	8
3	58	21
4	250	15
5	260	

Of note is the fact that points 4 and 5 extend beyond the continental shelf at distances of 13 and 15 nautical miles, respectively. The depths of these two points exceed 100 fathoms by a significant amount.

Point 5, which is the terminal point of the CSB, appears to be equidistant from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.