



Limits in the Seas

No. 10 – June 14, 1974

North Sea *Continental Shelf Boundary*

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

North Sea Continental Shelf Boundaries

June 14, 1974

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the continental shelf of maritime nations.

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The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Of the countries bordering the North Sea, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom have reached agreements on the division of the continental shelf. Belgium and France have not entered into any agreements.

Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway (with a statement),^{*} and the United Kingdom are parties to the Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf. Germany, although not a party to the Convention, adopted the Convention's definition of the continental shelf in issuing the German Proclamation on the Continental Shelf of January 20, 1964.

Seven agreements have been negotiated and ratified concerning continental shelf boundaries in the North Sea. Four agreements are based on the equidistance principle and two agreements are negotiated boundaries resulting from the February 20, 1969, decision of the International Court of Justice. In the continental shelf boundary disputes which Germany had with Denmark and the Netherlands, the ICJ rejected the argument that the equidistance principle had been adopted as a rule of customary international law. While the Court refrained from setting the precise boundaries to be drawn between the respective continental shelves, it did endorse the continuation of the land territory from the coast as the measure for determining an equitable delimitation of the area.

Germany signed continental shelf boundary agreements with the Netherlands and Denmark on January 28, 1971, thus completing the division of the North Sea continental shelf. The agreements between Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark necessitated adjustments in the previous continental shelf agreements which the United Kingdom had with Denmark and the Netherlands. A new continental shelf agreement had to be established between the United Kingdom and Germany as a result of the ICJ decision.

The North Sea has an area of approximately 222,000 square miles. Water depths are less than 100 fathoms except for the Norwegian Trench and Devils Hole. The latter is a small area with depths up to 130 fathoms and is located at about 57° N. latitude and 1° E. longitude.

The Norwegian Trench lies off the south and west coasts of Norway. Adjacent to the Norwegian Coast is a narrow bank of water of less than 100 fathoms in depth. This narrow shelf, which separates the Norwegian Trench from the coast, ranges in width from 2 to 10 nautical miles. The shelf has an average width of about 3 nautical miles. The Norwegian Trench has depths up to 265 fathoms on the west coast and 371 fathoms on the southeast coast. The greatest width of the Trench related to the continental shelf boundary (CSB) is 81 nautical miles, which is at Point 8 of the Norway-United Kingdom agreement. The narrowest width of 20 nautical miles is located at Lindesness on the southern Norwegian coast.

^{*} Norway rejected France's reservation to the Continental Shelf Convention

NORWAY AND UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

The Governments of the Kingdom of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an agreement delimiting the continental shelf boundary (CSB) between the two countries on March 10, 1965. The agreement was ratified and came into force on June 29, 1965.

The agreement set forth the following principles:

Article 1

The dividing line between that part of the Continental Shelf which appertains to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that part which appertains to the Kingdom of Norway shall be based, with certain minor divergencies for administrative convenience, on a line, every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points of the baselines from which the territorial sea of each country is measured.

Article 2

(1) In implementation of the principle set forth in Article 1, the dividing line shall be arcs of Great Circles between the following points, in the sequence given below:

Point 1.	56° 05' 12" N.	3° 15' 00" E.
Point 2.	56° 35' 42" N.	2° 36' 48" E.
Point 3.	57° 54' 18" N.	1° 57' 54" E.
Point 4.	58° 25' 48" N.	1° 29' 00" E.
Point 5.	59° 17' 24" N.	1° 42' 42" E.
Point 6.	59° 53' 48" N.	2° 04' 36" E.
Point 7.	61° 21' 24" N.	1° 47' 24" E.
Point 8.	61° 44' 12" N.	1° 33' 36" E.

The positions of the points in this Article are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum (1st Adjustment 1950).

(2) The dividing line has been drawn on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 3

(1) In the south the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 1, which is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark. The position of the above-mentioned point No. 1 shall be subject to acceptance by the Kingdom of Denmark.

(2) For the time being the Contracting Parties have not deemed it necessary to draw the dividing line further north than point No. 3.

Article 4

If any single geological petroleum structure or petroleum field, or any single geological structure or field of any other mineral deposit, including sand or gravel, extends across the dividing line and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of the dividing line is exploitable, wholly or in part, from the other side of the dividing line, the Contracting Parties shall, in consultation with the licensees, if any, seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the proceeds deriving therefrom shall be apportioned.

Article 5

This Agreement shall not affect the status of the superjacent waters or air space above.

Article 6

(1) This Agreement shall be ratified. Instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Oslo as soon as possible.

(2) The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at London the 10th day of March, 1965, in the English and Norwegian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

ANALYSIS

The Norway-United Kingdom CSB has a length of 359 nautical miles. The equidistance principle was employed for the entire length of the CSB.

There are eight terminal or turning points on the CSB. These eight points are separated by an average distance of 44.9 nautical miles. The distances between points ranges from 24 to 88 nautical miles. The average water depth at the eight points is 63.1 fathoms with a depth range of 38 to 100 fathoms.

The eight terminal or turning points of the CSB are an average distance of 113.6 nautical miles from Norwegian and British territory. The distances range from 82 nautical miles at Point 7 to 160 nautical miles from land at Point 1.

Point 1, the southern terminus of the CSB, is co-extensive with Point 8 of the Denmark-Norway CSB and with Point 1 of the Denmark-United Kingdom CSB. The northern terminus of the CSB at Point 8 is located in the Norwegian Sea and coincides with the 100-fathom contour.

TABLE I. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NORWAY-UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	United Kingdom Territory	Distance Land to Continental Shelf Boundary Point (nautical miles)	Norway Territory
1		40	Mainland	(160)	Mainland
	37				
2		38	Farn Island	(151)	Island
	83				
3		42	Buchan Ness	(125)	Mainland
	36				
4		67	Ratray Head	(116)	Island
	53				
5		63	Sumburgh Head	(98)	Utsire I
	38				
6		62	Out Skerries	(90)	Island
	88				
7		93	Island	(82)	Island
	24				
8		100	Island	(87)	Gunnarskjaen

The distinguishing feature of the agreement between Norway and the United Kingdom is that the deep Norwegian Trench was ignored in the determination of the CSB. If the coastal 100-fathom contour had been used in delimiting the Norwegian claim to the continental shelf, their claim would have been virtually non-existent because of the narrow coastal zone of depths less than 100 fathoms in depth. Thus, the Trench was ignored as a limiting factor and the CSB was delimited based strictly on the equidistance principle without regard to the 100-fathom contour.

It is estimated that about 1/3 to 2/5 of the Norwegian shelf, as delimited by the Norway-United Kingdom CSB, is over 100 fathoms in depth.

DENMARK AND NORWAY CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark signed an agreement dividing the continental shelf between the two countries on

December 8, 1965. The ratifications were exchanged and the agreement came into force on June 22, 1966.

The agreement set forth the following principles:

Article 1

The boundary between the areas of the continental shelf over which Denmark and Norway respectively exercise sovereignty shall be the median line, which shall be determined so that every point of the line shall be equidistant from the nearest points on the base lines from which the limits of the contracting parties' outer territorial waters are measured.

Article 2

With a view to an appropriate application of the principle expressed in Article 1, the boundary shall be drawn in straight lines (compass lines) through the following points and in the order given below:

Point 1.	58°15,8'N	10°02,0'E
Point 2.	57°59,3'N	9°23,0'E
Point 3.	57°41,8'N	8°53,3'E
Point 4.	57°37,1'N	8°27,5'E
Point 5.	57°29,9'N	7°59,0'E
Point 6.	57°10,5'N	6°56,2'E
Point 7.	56°35,5'N	5°02,0'E
Point 8.	56°05,2'N	3°15,0'E

The geographical coordinates cited above refer to the appended Norwegian chart no. 301, 1941 edition, printed in November 1963, on which the demarcation line has been drawn. The chart shall constitute an integral part of this treaty.

Article 3

The terminal points of the Danish-Norwegian demarcation line are the points where the lines meet the demarcation lines of other states' area of the continental shelf.

The contracting parties intend, if necessary, to fix these points definitely after consultation with the third country concerned.

Article 4

If it is found that natural resources on or below the seabed extend to both sides of the boundary between the contracting parties' continental shelf, so that resources which are found in one party's area could wholly or in part be extracted from the other party's area, agreement on the exploitation of these natural resources shall be concluded at the request of one of the contracting parties.

Article 5

This treaty has been drawn up in two original copies, one Norwegian and one Danish text, both to the same effect.

The treaty shall be ratified and exchange of ratification documents shall take place in Copenhagen.

The treaty shall enter into force on the day the ratification documents are exchanged.

Oslo, December 8, 1965

ANALYSIS

The Denmark-Norway CSB has a length of 255 nautical miles and extends from the middle of the North Sea into the Skagerrak. There are eight terminal or turning points, which have an average distance of 31.9 nautical miles between them. The distance between the points ranges from 14 to 71 nautical miles. The average water depth at the points is 83.5 fathoms, with a depth range of 30 to 254 fathoms.

The CSB is an average distance of 58.4 nautical miles from both Danish and Norwegian territory. The points on the CSB range from 30 to 160 nautical miles from the land. Point 1 of the Denmark-Norway CSB is coextensive with Point 5 of the Norway-Sweden CSB. Point 8 of the CSB corresponds to Point 1 of both the Norway-United Kingdom CSB, and the Denmark-United Kingdom CSB.

As was the case in the Norway-United Kingdom CSB Agreement, the deep Norwegian Trench was ignored as a factor limiting the Norwegian claim to the continental shelf. Similarly, as in the Norway-United Kingdom Agreement, 1/3 to 2/5 of the Norwegian claim to the Shelf as delimited by the Denmark-Norway CSB is over 100 fathoms in depth. Only a small portion of the Danish shelf (around points 1 and 2) is over 100 fathoms, but depths do extend to as much as 250 fathoms.

**TABLE II. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DENMARK-NORWAY
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY**

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	Norway Territory	Distance Land to Continental Shelf Boundary Point (nautical miles)	Denmark Territory
1		254	Island	(35)	The Skaw
	25				
2		100	Torungen	(30)	Hirshals
	24				
3		50	Island	(32)	Mainland
	14				
4		87	Island	(30)	Manstholm
	17				
5		75	Island	(31)	Manstholm
	38				
6		30	Island	(47)	Mainland
	71				
7		32	Mainland	(102)	Mainland
	66				
8		40	Mainland	(160)	Mainland

DENMARK AND UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

On November 25, 1971, the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an agreement delimiting the continental shelf between the two countries. Instruments of ratification were exchanged and the agreement entered into force on December 7, 1972. The 1971 agreement altered Point 2 of the 1966 Denmark-U.K. agreement.

The 1971 agreement set forth the following principles:

Article 1

The dividing line between that part of the Continental Shelf which appertains to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that part which appertains to the Kingdom of Denmark is in principle a line which at every point is equidistant from the nearest points of the baselines from which the territorial sea of each country is measured.

Article 2

(1) In implementation of the principle set forth in Article 1, the dividing line shall be an arc of a Great Circle between the following points:

1. 56°05'12.0"N 03°15'00.0"E
2. 55°55'09.4"N 03°21'00.0"E

The positions of the two above-mentioned points are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum (1st Adjustment 1950).

- (2) The dividing line has been drawn on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 3

- (1) In the north the termination point of the dividing line is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Norway.

Article 4

If any single geological petroleum structure or petroleum field, or any single geological structure or field of any other mineral deposit, including sand or gravel, extends across the dividing line and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of the dividing line is exploitable, wholly or in part, from the other side of the dividing line, the Contracting Parties shall see to reach agreement as to the exploitation of such structure or field.

Article 5

With the entry into force of this Agreement the Agreement relating to the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between the two countries signed at London on 3 March 1966 shall cease to have effect.

Article 6

- (1) This Agreement shall be ratified. Instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at London.

- (2) The Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Done in duplicate at London the 25th day of November, 1971, in the English and Danish languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

ANALYSIS

The CSB consists of only two points and extends for a distance of 11 nautical miles. The CSB was delimited using the equidistance principle. The two points have an average

depth of 35 fathoms and are an average of 152 nautical miles from Danish and British territory.

Point 1 of the CSB is contiguous with Point 1 of the Norway-United Kingdom CSB, as well as Point 8 of the Denmark-Norway CSB. Point 2 coincides with Point S7 of the Denmark-Germany CSB, and Point 3 of the Germany-U.K. CSB.

TABLE III. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DENMARK-UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	United Kingdom Territory	Distance Land to Continental Shelf Boundary Point (nautical miles)	Denmark Territory
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1	16	40	Mainland	(163)	Lyngvig
2		30	Flamborough Head	(161)	Lyngvig

NETHERLANDS-UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an Agreement on October 6, 1965, delimiting the continental shelf under the North Sea between the two countries. Instruments of ratification were exchanged at The Hague and the agreement came into force on December 26, 1966.

The 1965 agreement was amended by a protocol signed November 25, 1971; this protocol altered the position of Point 19 of the 1965 agreement. The 1971 agreement was ratified and entered into force on December 7, 1972.

The 1965 CSB agreement specified that:

Article 1

(1) Subject to Article 2 of this Agreement the dividing line between that part of the Continental Shelf which appertains to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that part which appertains to the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall be arcs of Great Circles between the following points in the sequence given below:

1.	51° 48' 18" N.	2° 28' 54" E.
2.	51 59 00	2 37 36
3.	52 01 00	2 39 30
4.	52 05 18	2 42 12
5.	52 06 00	2 42 54
6.	52 12 24	2 50 24

7.	52 17 24	2 56 00
8.	52 25 00	3 03 30
9.	52 37 18	3 11 00
10.	52 47 00	3 12 18
11.	52 53 00	3 10 30
12.	53 18 06	3 03 24
13.	53 28 12	3 01 00
14.	53 35 06	2 59 18
15.	53 40 06	2 57 24
16.	53 57 48	2 52 00
17.	54 22 48	2 45 48
18.	54 37 18	2 53 54
19.	55 50 06	3 24 00 (superceded by 1971 Agreement)

The positions of the points in this Article are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum (1st Adjustment 1950).

(2) The dividing line has been drawn on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 2

(1) In the south the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 1, which is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Belgium.

(2) In the north the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 19, which is the point of intersection of dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Denmark.

Article 3

Should any dispute arise concerning the position of any installation or other device or a well's intake in relation to the dividing line, the Contracting Parties shall in consultation determine on which side of the dividing line the installation or other device or the well's intake is situated.

Article 4

(1) This Agreement shall be ratified. Instrument of ratification shall be exchanged at The Hague as soon as possible.

(2) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments have signed the present Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at London the 6th October, 1965 in the English and Netherlands languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

The 1971 protocol declared:

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;

Having regard to the Agreement concluded between them on 6 October 1965 relating to the Delimitation of the Continental shelf under the North Sea between their countries (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"); and

In view of the dividing line which, by the Agreement of 28 January 1971 between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany, was established between the Netherlands part and the German part of the Continental Shelf under the North Sea;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Point No. 19 mentioned in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Agreement shall be cancelled and be superseded by a new point No. 19, the co-ordinates of which shall be: 55° 45' 54" N 03° 22' 13" E.

Article 2

Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Agreement shall be amended and shall read as follows:

"In the north the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 19, which is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the continental shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany."

Article 3

(1) This Protocol shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at London.

(2) This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

ANALYSIS

The CSB was delimited according to the equidistance principle. It extends for a distance of 25 nautical miles. There are 19 terminal or turning points on the CSB, with an average of 13.9 nautical miles between the points. The distance between the points range from 2 to 71 nautical miles. The water depth at the points ranges from 13 to 30 fathoms with an average depth of 19.2 fathoms.

The 19 points of the CSB are an average distance of 63.3 nautical miles from Dutch and British territory. The distance from land of the points ranges from 39 to 154 nautical miles.

The southern terminus of the CSB, at Point 1, marks the point of intersection of British, Dutch and Belgian jurisdiction on the continental shelf. The northern terminus, at Point 19, corresponds to Point E₈ of the Germany-Netherlands CSB and Point 1 of the Germany-U.K. CSB.

**Table IV. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NETHERLANDS-UNITED KINGDOM
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY**

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	United Kingdom Territory	Distance Land to Continental Shelf Boundary Points (nautical miles)	Netherlands Territory
1		19	Orfordness	(39)	Walcheran
	12				
2		18	Orfordness	(40)	Walcheran
	3				
3		21	Orfordness	(40)	Walcheran
	4				
4		22	Mainland	(41)	Walcheran
	2				
5		22	Mainland	(41)	Walcheran
	7				
6		21	Lowestoft	(42)	Schouwen
	6				
7		19	Mainland	(44)	Schouwen
	9				
8		19	Lowestoft	(47)	Hook of Holland
	14				
9		13	Lowestoft	(51)	Scheveningen
	10				
10		20	Caister Caister	(53)	Egmond
	6				
11		19	Caister	(53)	Mainland
	26				
12		15	Mainland	(50)	Texel I.
	10				
13		16	Mainland	(66)	Texel I.
	7				
14		17	Mainland	(69)	Texel I.
	4				
15		18	Mainland	(72)	Texel I.
	19				
16		20	Mainland	(83)	Vlieland
	26				
17		17	Flamborough Head	(100)	Vlieland
	15				
18		17	Flamborough Head	(106)	Vlieland
	71				
19		30	Flamborough Head	(156)	Terschelling

DENMARK-GERMANY CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

On June 9, 1965, the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany signed an agreement delimiting, in the coastal regions, the continental shelf of the North Sea. Ratifications were exchanged and the agreement came into force on May 27, 1966.

Following the decision of the ICJ on February 20, 1969, Denmark and Germany signed an agreement on January 28, 1971, completing the shelf delimitation between the two states. After the exchange of ratifications, the agreement entered into force on December 7, 1972.

The 1965 CSB agreement set forth the following principles:

Article 1

The boundary line between the Danish and Germany portions of the continental shelf of the North Sea shall run, in the coastal regions, in a straight line from the point indicated in the 1921 description of the frontier at which the prolongation of the line connecting the East List Beacon with the median point of the line connecting the two West List Beacons reaches the open sea to a point 55°10'03.4" N, 7°33'09.6" E by the European Datum System (corresponding to the Danish geographical co-ordinates 55°10'07.1" N, 7°33'07.7" E.).

Article 3

- (1) This Treaty requires ratification. Ratification instruments will be exchanged in Copenhagen as soon as possible.
- (2) This treaty enters into force on the day of exchange of the ratification instruments.

Executed in Bonn on June 9, 1965 in two original copies with one German and one Danish text, both on the same effect.

The 1971 CSB agreement specified that Germany and Denmark,

intending to establish the common boundary of their respective parts of the continental shelf under the North Sea in so far as this has not already been done by means of the Treaty of 9 June 1965 concerning the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf of the North Sea near the Coast,

anxious to regulate the economic exploitation of the continental shelf in so far as this is in their common interest,

on the basis of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 20 February 1969 in the disputes over the delimitation of the continental shelf under the North Sea between the Federal Republic of Germany on the one hand and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the

other,

taking into account the boundary lines of the continental shelf that are not affected by the judgment of the International Court of Justice,

have agreed as follows:

Art. 1. (1) The dividing line between the German and the Danish part of the continental shelf under the North Sea shall, in extension of the partial boundary determined by the Treaty of 9 June 1965, be arcs of Great Circles between the following points:

S ₁	55° 10' 03,4" N,	07° 33' 09,6" E
S ₂	55° 10' 03,4" N,	05° 45' 00,0" E
S ₃	55° 15' 00,0" N,	05° 24' 12,0" E
S ₄	55° 15' 00,0" N,	05° 09' 00,0" E
S ₅	55° 24' 15,0" N,	04° 45' 00,0" E
S ₆	55° 46' 21,8" N	04° 15' 00,0" E
S ₇	55° 55' 09,4" N,	03° 21' 00,0" E

The positions of the points are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum System (1st Adjustment 1950).

(2) The termination point S 7 of the dividing line shall be the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the German, Danish and British parts of the continental shelf under the North Sea.

(3) The dividing line and the partial boundary established by the Treaty of 9 June 1965 have been drawn on the chart attached to this Treaty as Annex 1.

Art. 8. (1) The present Treaty is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Bonn.

(2) The present Treaty shall enter into force one month after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Done at Copenhagen on January 28, 1971 in duplicate in the German and Danish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

ANALYSIS

The Denmark-Germany CSB extends for a distance of 195 n.m. The CSB is not an equidistant boundary, except for Point S₁. The average distance between the turning points is 28.0 n.m., with a maximum distance of 64 n.m. and a minimum of 9 n.m. The

water depth along the CSB averages 22.6 fathoms at the turning points. The average distance of the turning points from Danish territory is 99.3 n.m., and from German territory, 110.0 n.m.

Point S7 coincides with Point 2 of the Denmark-U.K. CSB and Point 3 of the Germany-U.K. CSB.

TABLE V. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DENMARK-GERMANY CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	Denmark Territory	Distance to Land Cont. Shelf Boundary Pt. (nautical miles)	Germany Territory
S		3	Terminal point of the international maritime boundary		
	26				
S ₁		13	Blaavands Huk	(30)	Sylt I.
	83				
S ₂		42	Blaavands Huk	(78) (92)	Sylt I.
	36				
S ₃		67	Blaavands Huk	(91) (99)	Sylt I.
	53				
S ₄		63	Blaavands Huk	(100) (107)	Sylt I.
	38				
S ₅		62	Blaavands Huk	(112) (122)	Sylt I.
	27				
S ₆		20	Blaavands Huk	(128) (143)	Sylt I.
	32				
S ₇		30	Lyngvig	(161) (177)	Borkum

The international maritime boundary between Denmark and Germany is discussed in the following publication: *Denmark-Germany Boundary*, International Boundary Study No. 81 of June 14, 1968. U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer.

GERMANY-NETHERLANDS CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

On December 1, 1964, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands signed an agreement concerning the lateral delimitation of the continental shelf in the vicinity of the coast. Ratifications were exchanged and the agreement came into force on September 18, 1965.

After the decision of the ICJ on February 20, 1969, Germany and the Netherlands signed

an agreement on January 28, 1971, thereby completing the continental shelf boundary between the two states. Following the exchange of ratifications, the agreement entered into force on December 7, 1972.

The 1964 agreement set forth the following principles:

Article 1

(1) Up to fifty-fourth parallel of north latitude, the boundary between the Netherlands and German parts of the continental shelf of the North Sea shall run from the northern end of the line which was agreed upon in the Supplementary Agreement of 14 May 1962 to the Ems-Dollard Treaty of 8 April 1960, and which divides the frontier area of the Ems Estuary lengthwise, along the shortest line passing through points E₁ and E₂ to point E₃.

(2) The co-ordinates of the points (according to German marine charts No. 50, July 1956 edition, and No. 90, May 1964 edition) are the following:

Point E ₁ :	53°45'06" N,	6°19'56" E;
Point E ₂ :	53°48'56" N,	6°15'49" E;
Point E ₃ :	54°00'00" N,	6°06'26" E.

Article 2

(1) The determination of this treaty is not concerned with the question of the course of the State Boundary in the Ems Estuary. Both parties to the Treaty reserve their rights on this question.

(2) The Judgment of Article 46, Paragraph 2, of the Ems-Dollard Treaty remains unchanged.

Article 4

(1) This Treaty requires ratification. Ratification instruments will be exchanged in The Hague as soon as possible.

(2) This Treaty enters into force on the day of exchange of the ratification instruments.

Executed in Bonn on December 1, 1964 in two original copies with one German and one Dutch text, both to the same effect.

The 1971 CSB agreement stated that the Netherlands and Germany,

In order to fix the boundaries between the parts of the continental shelf under the North Sea to which each party is entitled, in so far as this was not already done under the Treaty of December 1, 1964 concerning the boundary delimitation of the continental shelf close to

the coast,

Also *wishing* to regulate the economic use of the continental shelf in so far as their joint interests demand such regulation,

On the basis of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of February 20, 1969 on the disputes between the Federal Republic of Germany on one hand and the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the other, on the delimitation of the continental shelf under the North Sea,

With due observance of the boundaries of the continental shelf which have not been fixed by the judgment of the International Court of Justice,

Have agreed as follows:

Art. 1. (1) In addition to that part of the boundary fixed under the Treaty of December 1, 1964, the boundary between the Dutch and German parts of the continental shelf under the North Sea is formed by Great Circles arcs between the points given below, in the same order:

E3 as fixed in the Treaty of December 1, 1964

E4:	54° 11' 12" N,	06° 00' 00" E
E5:	54° 37' 12" N,	05° 00' 00" E
E6:	55° 00' 00" N,	05° 00' 00" E
E7:	55° 20' 00" N,	04° 20' 00" E
E8:	55° 45' 54" N,	03° 22' 13" E

The location of points E4 to E8 inclusive is expressed in latitude and longitude according to European co-ordinates (1st Settlement 1950).

(2) The boundary's terminal point E8 is the point of intersection of the boundaries between the Dutch, German, and English parts of the continental shelf under the North Sea.

(3) By way of illustration, this boundary, as well as the part of the boundary fixed by the Treaty of December 1, 1964, are drawn on the map of Annex 1 of this Treaty.

Art. 8 (1) This Treaty shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Bonn.

(2) This Treaty becomes effective one month after the exchange of the instruments of ratification takes place.

In witness whereof the Plenipotentiaries thereto have signed the present Treaty.

Done at Copenhagen, January 28, 1971, in duplicate, in the Dutch and German languages,

both texts being equally authoritative.

ANALYSIS

The Germany-Netherlands CSB is 177 n.m. long with an average distance between the turning points of 22 n.m. The maximum distance between the points is 44 n.m. and the minimum is 4 n.m. The CSB is an equidistant line from point C" to E4; thereafter the boundary is a negotiated line. The water depth at the turning points averages 17 fathoms with a depth range from 2 to 30 fathoms. The average distance of the turning points from Dutch territory is 43.4 n.m. and from German territory, 66.1 n.m.

Point E8 of the Germany-Netherlands CSB coincides with Point 19 of the Netherlands-U.K. CSB and Point 1 of the Germany-U.K. CSB.

**TABLE VI. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GERMANY-NETHERLANDS
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY**

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	Germany Territory	Distance to Land Cont. Shelf Boundary Pt. (nautical miles)	Netherlands Territory
C"		2	Terminal point of the international maritime boundary		
E1	10	12	Borkum	12	Island
E2	4	10	Borkum	17	Island
E3	12	15	Borkum	29	Island
E4	12	17	Borkum	43	Schiermonnikoog
E5	44	28	Borkum (85)		(73)Tershelling
E6	23	21	Borkum (103)		(96)Tershelling
E7	30	20	Borkum (132)		(121)Tershelling
E8	42	30	Borkum (174)		(156)Tershelling

The international maritime boundary between Germany and the Netherlands is discussed in the following publication: *Germany-Netherlands Boundary* U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer

GERMANY-UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

The Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed an agreement delimiting a CSB on November 25, 1971. Ratifications were exchanged and the agreement entered into force on December 7, 1972.

The agreement provides that:

Article 1

(1) The dividing line between that part of the Continental Shelf which appertains to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that part which appertains to the Federal Republic of Germany shall be arcs of Great Circles between the following points in the sequence given below:

1. 55° 45' 54.0" N 03° 22' 13.0" E
2. 55° 50' 06.0" N 03° 24' 00.0" E
3. 55° 55' 09.4" N 03° 21' 00.0" E

The positions of the points in this article are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum (1st Adjustment 1950).

(2) In the south the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 1, which is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(3) In the north the termination point of the dividing line shall be point No. 3, which is the point of intersection of the dividing lines between the Continental Shelves of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Kingdom of Denmark.

(4) The dividing line has been drawn on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 6

(1) This Agreement shall be ratified. Instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at London as soon as possible.

(2) This Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

In witness whereof the Plenipotentiaries, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at London this 25th day of November, 1971, in the English and German languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

ANALYSIS

The Germany-U.K. CSB is 8 n.m. long with a distance of 4 n.m. between each turning point. The CSB is delimited in 30 fathoms of water. The boundary turning points are an average distance of 178 n.m. from German territory and 158 n.m. from British territory.

TABLE VII. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GERMANY-UNITED KINGDOM CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Continental Shelf Boundary Point	Distance Between Points (nautical miles)	Water Depth (fathoms)	Germany Territory	Distance to Land Cont. Shelf Boundary Pt. (nautical miles)	Netherlands Territory
1		30	Borkum(174)		(156)Flamborough Head
	4				
2		30	Borkum(177)		(157)Flamborough Head
	4				
3		30	Borkum(182)		(161)Flamborough Head