



THE UNITED KINGDOM  
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

ADMIRALTY WAY · TAUNTON · SOMERSET · TA1 2DN · TELEPHONE +44 (0)1823 337900 · FAX +44 (0)1823 284077  
www.ukho.gov.uk

Mr S J Dowden

Our Ref: FOI 66739

15 October 2010

[request-43183-97601839@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-43183-97601839@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Dowden

Your communication dated 15.11.10 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below further information regarding the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is drawn:

The answer that we provided on the 11 October is factually correct. The territorial sea baseline around the United Kingdom is the low water line as depicted on the latest edition of the largest scale chart of a particular area. As soon as the charted low water line changes by notice to mariners, new edition of a chart or a new larger scale chart, then the territorial sea baseline changes. The only exception is the straight baseline system as defined in The Territorial Sea (Amendment) Order 1996

The zero vector isobath is captured electronically and is not maintained as a series of discrete basepoint co-ordinates defining the territorial sea baseline.

can send you a CARIS file that contains the present low-water line data on a CD. The standard handling fee to produce this data is £25 + VAT, which will be waived in this instance.

You will be able to view this data on CARIS EASY VIEW that can be downloaded free from the CARIS web site at:

<http://www.caris.com/>

Please note that this data set is only accurate on the day of issue. If a new large-scale chart, a new edition or a notice to mariners is issued that changes the low-water line, this will alter the territorial sea baseline.

I would like to request your address for us to send you the disk with the information as described above.

Your request for an Internal Review has been noted and will be passed to my colleagues in the FOI team based in MoD to undertake.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Christabelle Brimpong  
Communications Manager