

M. Sc. IV Sem.
Paper Elective Paper II
Fishery Science, Capture Fishery

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

The idea of allotting nations Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZs) to give them more control of maritime affairs outside territorial limits gained acceptance in the late 20th century. An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a sea zone prescribed by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea over which a state has a special right regarding the exploitation and use of the marine resources including energy production or electric production from water and wind. It stretches from the baseline out to 200 nautical miles (370.4 km) from its coast. In colloquial usage, the term may include the continental shelf. The exception to this rule occurs when exclusive economic zone would overlap, that is state coastal baselines are less than 400 nautical mile apart. When an overlap occurs, it is up to the states to define the actual maritime boundary. Generally, any point within an overlapping area defaults to the nearest state (Nation).

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is an area beyond to the territorial sea. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) includes the contiguous zone. The contiguous zone is a band of water that goes from the outer edge of the territorial sea to up to 24 nautical miles. India is currently seeking to extend its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to 350.

The Exclusive Economic Zone of India is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial waters and the limit of such as zone is two hundred nautical miles from the baseline. For India, about total Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 2305143 km² area which is mariland India and Lakshadweep about 1641514 km² while Andaman and Nicobar Islands 663629 km². In India context fishing is a state subject for inland waters and water up to 12 nautical miles. Beyond 12 nautical miles to the extend of Exclusive Economic Zone fishing comes under the central government.

The potential of marine fishery resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone was revalidated at about 3.92 million tonnes of which currently about 3.69 million tonnes are being exploited or harvested mainly from the coastal area. The balance of less than one million tonnes comprising mainly the under exploited and unexploited resources needs to be

harvested from the offshore and deep sea regions. For further development of fisheries in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, application of a number of fishing techniques viz. bottom trawling for deep sea fin fishes (true fishes), cephalopods, deep sea shrimps/prawns and deep sea lobsters, mid water trawling for columnar species and tuna long lining for oceanic stock of tuna and allied species should be considered.

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