

PROCLAMATION 2667 OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1945
POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SUBSOIL AND SEA BED OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF

Acronym: Truman Proclamation

Citation: 10 Fed. Reg. 12,305 (1945).

Codified as Executive Order 9633 of September 28, 1945.

Executive Purpose:

The Proclamation and Order extend U.S. jurisdiction over the submerged lands and subsoil of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Summary:

The Truman Proclamation extends the U.S. claim to submerged lands and offshore resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the interest of conservation and prudent development of the natural resources of the seabed. For administrative purposes, it places the natural resources of the subsoil and sea bed of the continental shelf under the control of the Secretary of the Interior. When the continental shelf extends to waters that are controlled by another state, the boundaries of the jurisdiction and control are to be negotiated and settled between the United States and the other state.

The Truman Proclamation was codified by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) which affirmed the United States' exclusive jurisdiction over its continental shelf resources and created authority for the Department of the Interior to encourage discover and development of oil through a leasing program. The Proclamation specifically retains the right to free and unimpeded navigation on the high seas of the waters above the continental shelf.

This proclamation was issued at the same time as Proclamation 2668 entitled the "Policy of the United States with Respect to Coastal Fisheries in Certain Areas of the High Seas" and they are often referred to together as the "Truman Proclamations." Although the development of the proclamations and Executive Order substantially occurred under President Roosevelt, it was issued under President Truman and is known under his name.

A Proclamation

Policy of the United States with Respect to the National Resources of the Subsoil and Sea Bed of the Continental Shelf

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America, aware of the long range world-wide need for new sources of petroleum and other minerals holds the view that efforts to discover and make available new supplies of these resources should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS its competent experts are of the opinion that such resources underlie many parts of the continental shelf off the coasts of the United States of America, and the with modern technological progress their utilization is already practicable or will become so at an early date and;

WHEREAS recognized jurisdiction over these resources is required in the interest of their conservation and prudent utilization when and as development is undertaken; and

WHEREAS it is the view of the Government of the United States that the exercise of jurisdiction over the natural resources of the subsoil and sea bed of the continental shelf by the contiguous nation is reasonable and just, since the effectiveness of measures to utilize or conserve these resources would be contingent upon cooperation and protection from the shore, since the continental shelf may be regarded as an extension of the land-mass of the coastal nation and thus naturally appurtenant to it, since these resources frequently form a seaward extension of a pool or deposit lying within the territory, and since self-protection compels the coastal nation to keep close watch over activities off its shores which are of the nature necessary for utilization of these resources;

NOW THEREFORE. I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the following policy of the United States of America with respect to the natural resources of the subsoil and sea bed of the continental shelf.

Having concern for the urgency of conserving and prudently utilizing its natural resources, the Government of the United States regards the natural resources of the subsoil and sea bed of the continental shelf beneath the high seas but contiguous to the coasts of the United States, subject to jurisdiction and control. In cases where the continental shelf extends to the shores of another State, or is shared with an adjacent State, the boundary shall be determined by the United States and the State concerned in accordance with equitable principles. The character as high seas of the waters above the continental shelf and the right to their free and unimpeded navigation are in no way thus affected.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 28th day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

forty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence
HARRY S. TREIMAN