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# ISRAEL AND LEBANON SIGN GROUND-BREAKING MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

On Thursday 27 October 2022, Israel and Lebanon entered into a historic agreement to establish a permanent maritime boundary between the two nations. This follows announcements from both governments on 11 October that they had reached consensus on a draft agreement delimiting their maritime zones. The boundary has long been disputed, which has made exploration and extraction in the contested waters, which include the Qana and Karish gas fields, difficult.

The exact details of the agreement are yet to be published, but each country is expected to now deposit a list of coordinates of the agreed boundary with the United Nations depositary. This will allow the maritime delimitation and zones to be recognised under international law. Reportedly the agreed boundary largely follows the demarcation 'Line 23', which would place the Karish gas field wholly within Israeli waters (south of the demarcation) and the majority of the Qana gas field within Lebanese waters to the north. Israel thereby has full rights to develop the Karish gas field while Lebanon has full rights to the Qana gas field, with the caveat that Israel is entitled to a portion of any revenues from the Qana gas field within its waters. The Israeli government has already announced the approval to begin producing gas from the Karish platform.

Envoys from the USA mediated the agreement between the two states who do not officially have any diplomatic ties. The agreement breaks through years of diplomatic stalemate and may, all going well, result in increased gas production in the Eastern Mediterranean.

As illustrated on the map, HFW have extensive experience and expertise in advising stakeholders in the offshore industry on maritime boundary disputes. Should you have any questions, please contact the authors of this briefing.



## Maritime Boundaries



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