

Law No. 149 of 5 March 1965 concerning the Continental Shelf

Article 1

The right to explore the continental shelf adjacent to the coast of Finland and the subsoil of it and for the purpose of exploitation of the natural resources of the areas mentioned in article 3 is exclusively exercised by the state of Finland.

For the purpose of the present law the term "continental shelf" means outside the area of Finland's territorial sea with the adjacent sea-bed and its subsoil to the boundary line which is determined according to articles 1 and 6 in the Geneva Convention of April 29, 1958, on the continental shelf or upon which agreements have been concluded between Finland and a foreign state according to the said article 6, paragraphs 1 or 2.

Article 2

With special permission a Finnish citizen, a community having legal capacity or a foundation may be granted by the cabinet of Ministers the right mentioned in article 1, paragraph 1. The same right may also be granted by the Cabinet of Ministers to a foreign citizen or a foreign community having legal capacity or a foreign foundation, if a special reason thereto is deemed to exist.

The permission may be granted also for certain time or provisionally. In the permission the conditions should be prescribed which, in consideration of security and the common interest, are considered necessary or which the Cabinet of Ministers otherwise deems essential. The conditions prescribed in the permission may be requested in changed circumstances.

If the permission mentioned in sub-paragraph 1 is requested by a qualified institution with a view to purely scientific research into the physical or biological characteristics of the continental shelf, the permission shall not be withheld if a special reason thereto does not exist.

Article 3

For the purpose of this law the natural resources of the continental shelf consist of the mineral and other non-living resources of the sea-bed and subsoil together with living organisms belonging to sedentary species, that is to say, organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the sea-bed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the sea-bed or the subsoil thereof.

Article 4

Where the permission requested according to article 2 concerns search for mine mineral or a mining-claim or exploitation of such minerals, in addition to the present law, the law concerning mines and in virtue thereof issued instructions should be observed.

Article 5

For exploration of the continental shelf and the exploitation of its natural resources the Cabinet of Ministers may grant permission to construct installations and other devices and to establish safety zones around such installations, as well as taking into consideration that interference is not caused to the use of recognized sea lanes. If the permission concerns establishment of safety zones, therein shall also be prescribed, which authority handles the

supervision of this safety zone and the maintenance of the necessary devices for this supervision. The Cabinet of Ministers shall also give instructions concerning the compensation of the costs of supervision.

It shall be unlawful to navigate in a properly marked safety zone as referred to in the first paragraph without the permission of the supervising authority or to contravene any other provision concerning the protection of a safety zone that is made by virtue of this Act or is embodied in the permission concerning the establishment of such zone.

Article 6

What, in particular has been legislated concerning laying a submarine conduit or a pipeline on the continental shelf and the maintenance of them, shall apply.

Article 7

Any breach against the present law or the prescriptions or conditions on permission issued by virtue thereof will be punished by fines, unless a severer punishment has been prescribed elsewhere in the law or the breach shall be punished according to the criminal instructions in the law concerning mines. In addition to the punishment the permission granted according to articles 2 and 5, shall be cancelled.

Article 8

More detailed instructions for the execution and application of the present law and for the application of the mines on search for mine mineral in the area of the continental shelf as well as on mine-claim and exploitation of such mineral therein shall be issued, when needed, by a decree.