

FINNISH FISHING-ZONE ACT

Passed in Helsinki on 15 November 1974

In accordance with a decision of Parliament it shall be enacted that:

§ 1

The Finnish fishing-zone comprises that part of the open sea which lies immediately outside the country's territorial waters and ends, unless otherwise provided, eight nautical miles i.e. 14816 metres from the outer border of the Finnish territorial sea.

The fishing-zone shall, however, not extend:

- 1) beyond the border of the territorial sea of another state;
- 2) in the Gulf of Finland, beyond the centre line of which the coordinating points were determined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Agreement of 20 May 1965 between Finland and the Soviet Union on the Demarcation of Sea Areas and the Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Finland; and
- 3) in the Gulf of Bothnia, the Aland Sea and in the northern part of the Baltic Sea, beyond the centre line of which each point is at an equal distance from the closest points on the basic line from which the width of the territorial seas of Finland and Sweden respectively is determined.

§ 2

The Government of Finland has the exclusive right to direct and supervise fishing in the fishing-zone and, with due respect to international agreements in force, take other measures to preserve and multiply fish stock and arrange and develop the fishing conditions in the area.

§ 3

As for the fishing rights on the fishing-zone, the provisions on fishing in the sea beyond the village limits in § 2 of the Act on Fishing shall apply. The same applies to the rights of Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish citizens to fish for domestic consumption and recreational purposes. The provisions for granting other fishing rights within the fishing-zone to citizens of another state, when a specific agreement to that effect has been made with the other state, shall be issued by decree.

§ 4

Unless otherwise provided, fishing within the fishing-zone shall be subject to the appropriate provisions of the fishing laws in force. Specific provisions governing the said fishing shall, if need be, be issued by decree.

§ 5

The supervision of the application of the present Act and any provisions or regulations issued by virtue of the same shall befall the frontier officials, the police, and the customs and fishing authorities. Provisions concerning the duty of military authorities to provide assistance in the supervision shall be issued by decree.

§ 6

More specific provisions for the application of the present Act shall be issued by decree.

§ 7

This Act shall enter into force on 1 January 1975.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 2 and 3, the fishing vessels of those states bordering the Baltic Sea who have traditionally been fishing in same sea area belonging to the Finnish fishing-zone, shall have the right to continue to do so for two years after the entry into force of the present Act.

Helsinki, 15 November 1974

President of the Republic

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry