



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Legislative Decree No. 30 on the protection of aquatic life (*Décret législatif N° 30 sur la protection des êtres aquatiques*). - 25 August 1964.¹

TITLE I

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, Public Waters shall be:
 - (a) the sea waters belonging to the Syrian Arab Republic extending twelve miles out from the coast; the limits of such waters shall be laid down by decision of the Minister of National Defence, who shall also be responsible for taking decisions on all matters connected therewith; he shall have the same responsibilities with respect to ponds and lakes;
 - (b) the internal waters belonging to the State, including rivers and their tributaries, lakes, canals, streams, ponds and provisional and permanent marshland and the waters common to them;
 - (c) the waters resulting from the mixture of internal waters with sea waters at the mouths of rivers.
2. For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, aquatic life shall consist of the vegetable and animal species living in Public Waters which have economic value.
3. For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, fishing boats shall be all vessels equipped with fishing gear for use in Public Waters whatever the means of propulsion used.

¹ Ed. Note: This text is based on a French translation which appeared in the *Recueil des lois et de la législation financière de la République arabe syrienne*, Vol. 16, No.9, September 1964. Authorization for use of that text is gratefully acknowledged.

4. For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, fishing shall be the capture of the live resources of Public Waters by any means and for whatever purpose.

5. (a) For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, shore fishermen shall be all persons exercising fishing as a trade without using a boat.

(b) Charterers shall be the persons on whose account any boat works independently, whether the said charterers be the owner or hirer.

(c) The boat's equipment shall consist of the tools and fishing gear and tackle carried on board in accordance with its licence.

(d) Off-shore fishermen shall be all persons exercising fishing from a fishing vessel, save that for sponge diving the term diver shall be used.

(e) The supervisor shall be the person responsible for supervising divers during sponge collection.

(f) The crew shall include all those working on board ship: the captain, sailors, seamen, mechanics, fishermen and apprentices.

(g) Cabin boys shall be adolescents between the age of 14 and 18 years working on board. Cabin boys shall not be considered fishermen.

6. Co-operative societies shall be understood as being fishermen's co-operatives and shall be established in accordance with existing legislation.

7. The Council referred to herein is the Higher Council for Aquatic Resources established in accordance with the provisions laid down herein.

TITLE II

REGULATION OF FISHING

CHAPTER I

Fishing licences

8. Persons who are not citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic, and their boats, shall be prohibited from fishing in Public Waters save as otherwise authorized by the Minister of Agriculture, and this for such reasons as the need to undertake research, and to develop and build up the means of exploiting the wealth of the sea and other waters and increasing the resources thereof. This prohibition shall not apply to the nationals of other Arab countries or their boats, provided reciprocity is granted.

9. (a) All boats shall be required to hold an annual licence issued in the name of the charterer in the manner laid down herein; the licence

shall show the maximum and minimum number of crew members authorized to work on the boat. The boat may carry an additional number of cabin boys but these shall not exceed half the number of fishermen on board, and the said cabin boys shall be carried as apprentice fishermen.

(b) All shore fishermen shall be required to hold a personal annual licence which shall be granted in the manner laid down herein.

10. (a) Fishing licences are granted on application to the competent authorities by charterers and shore fishermen. The said authorities shall lay down the statements to be set forth in the application and the papers to be attached thereto.

(b) Fishing licences shall be issued for boats only if they fulfill the following conditions:

- 1) that the boat holds a navigation permit granted in accordance with existing legislation;
- 2) that the competent authorities ensure that the boat is in good condition and fulfills the requirements of the regulations laid down herein, and this pursuant to an inspection and technical appraisal of the equipment it carries on board.

11. Fishing licences shall expire on 31 December of the year they are issued and third parties shall be prohibited from using them save as otherwise provided herein.

12. Fishing boats and shore fishermen shall carry their licences and shall show them immediately upon request to the competent officials.

13. Shore fishermen's permits may not be ceded to third parties. Fishing boat licences may be transferred in the event of the total or partial sale of the boat. Such transfer may take place only with the agreement of the department competent for the issue of the licence. All transfers made without the approval of the competent department shall involve the automatic cancellation of the licence.

14. The Ministry of Agriculture shall issue and promulgate orders fixing the number of licences to be issued to fishing boats and shore fishermen in each of the Public Waters regions.

15. Registers shall be kept in all ports (for sea fisheries) and in all *mouhafazat* (districts) (for fishing in internal waters) showing fishing boats, fishermen and fisheries' products, and these registers shall be in accordance with the models prepared by the competent departments.

CHAPTER II

Fishing rights

16. Fishing licenses shall be subject to an annual tax at the rates laid down in Table I¹ attached hereto.

17. The annual tax for fishing licenses shall be paid in full whatever the period of their validity. Boats holding their first authorization to fish Public Waters shall be excepted from this rule. Such boats shall pay a proportional tax on the license with effect from the first month following its date of issue,

18. Boats may not be changed from one category to another without the approval of the competent department, if such change involves re-classification in a category that entails a higher rate of tax. The differences in the amount of the tax shall be collected for the outstanding months of the year.

19. It shall be prohibited to collect taxes on fishing boats belonging to co-operative societies or on their engines, equipment or catches as laid down herein.

20. Annual taxes on fishing licenses shall be collected in full before their issue to holders.

CHAPTER III

Fishing leases and fish breeding

21. (a) The Minister of Agriculture is hereby authorized to lease the fishing rights in any sector of Public Waters, if the resources thereof are not well worked or if such leasing is in the public interest, provided that the duration of the lease does not exceed five years.

(b) Preference shall be given to co-operative societies with the material and technical means required. The leasing of fishing rights shall be by mutual agreement, provided that the co-operatives concerned are left a sufficient profit not exceeding 25% of the estimated value.

(c) The leasing of fishing rights shall be made in accordance with general specifications safeguarding the living resources of the sea and other waters and the rights of beneficiaries whether these be the workers on the fishing boats or the owners thereof. The leaseholder shall not be authorized to sublet.

¹ Ed. Note.: Table omitted.

22. No individual or vessel shall be authorized to engage in fishing in a leased sector without the approval of the lessee or his agent.

23. (a) Any sector of Public Waters may also be leased for the purpose of fish breeding or for carrying out projects that will benefit the aquatic resources thereof. Such leases may not exceed fifteen years, shall be renewable and shall be subject to the payment of a fee to the State.

(b) Leasing for fish breeding shall result from the issue of a decree approved by the Council on the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture and shall be made in circumstances such as to increase aquatic resources and safeguard the rights of beneficiaries and these are the workers on the boats and the owners thereof.

(c) Preference shall be given to co-operative societies with the material and technical means required in relation to the operations which they propose to carry out or which they carry out on Government proposal.

(d) The studies and projects submitted in support of lease applications for fish breeding by individuals or private agencies shall remain their property. The State shall, however, be authorized to expropriate them by decree against just compensation as fixed by the Council.

24. (a) Land owners shall be authorized to breed aquatic life to the extent of their rights over the Waters.

(b) The initiation of breeding operations shall be subject to the grant of an authorization free of charge from the Ministry of Agriculture, and this shall be granted or the application rejected, the reasons for this being shown, within one month of submission of the application.

(c) The holders of authorizations shall be required to observe the conditions laid down therein.

(d) The provisions of this Decree prohibiting the use of explosives and poisons shall apply to private fish breeding establishments.

CHAPTER IV

Fishing vessels and fishermen

25. Special registration numbers shall be given to vessels authorized to carry on fisheries and these shall be issued by the department responsible for the grant of licences. These registration numbers shall be clearly shown on vessels and shall appear in the licence issued. The responsible department shall determine their colour and size. The said numbers shall not be effaced, concealed, altered or defaced. The established dimensions and colours shall not be used on vessels other than fishing vessels.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

26. The competent officers shall be entitled to inspect and search fishing vessels and fishermen at all times to ensure the application of this Legislative Decree and of any other decisions or instructions issued in pursuance hereof. Fishermen shall on all occasions allow their vessels to be inspected by the officers concerned.

27. Vessels shall not be authorized to carry any number of passengers in excess of or below that fixed under the Sea Navigation Act or laid down in the fishing licence. Vessels may neither navigate nor anchor in prohibited areas without good reason. In addition, fishing shall be prohibited in such areas and at such seasons as may be determined by order of the Minister of Agriculture, and this with a view to protecting aquatic life.

28. Fishermen and fishing boats shall be prohibited from fishing, using methods or gear forbidden under this Legislative Decree and from using authorized means of fishing in an unauthorized manner.

29. Vessels may engage in joint fishing only in the manner, and with respect for the limitations, laid down by the Minister of Agriculture.

CHAPTER V

Fishing gear

30. Fishing methods shall not be such as to harm eggs or small fry, the consumption of which has no economic advantage. Fishing shall be confined to specified species of a specified size, the fishing of which is permitted.

Methods of mass destruction, such as explosives and poisons, shall be strictly prohibited.

The Minister of Agriculture may authorize the competent departments to use prohibited means of fishing on an experimental basis to establish the extent of the damage they cause and decide upon the possibility of their use, this being done within the limits required for the experiment.

31. Orders promulgated by the Minister of Agriculture shall determine the authorized fishing gear and the dimensions thereof.

CHAPTER VI

The protection of Public Waters

32. (a) The dumping of factory and laboratory waste harmful to aquatic life, and of chemical and oil waste from sewers and ships into Public Waters shall be strictly prohibited.

(b) The owners of factories and laboratories existing at the time of issue of this Legislative Decree, and also the owners of oil tankers and pipe lines and of chemical matter, shall take the necessary measures to avoid damage to Public Waters.

(c) The building of factories and laboratories and the laying of pipe lines for oils and chemical matter close to Public Waters shall, after the issue of this Legislative Decree, be subject to authorization by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the said authorization shall state the measures to be taken to avoid the pollution of water by harmful waste. Compliance with such measures shall be mandatory.

33. Orders issued by the Minister of Agriculture shall lay down the general conditions for and limitations on the building of factories, the establishment of laboratories and the laying of pipe lines in proximity to Public Waters as also the preventive measures to be taken by ships for the protection of Public Waters. Compliance with such Orders shall be mandatory.

CHAPTER VII

Amateur fishing

34. (a) The State shall encourage the population to study and carry on fishing, particular encouragement being given to adolescents and school children.

(b) Amateur fishing shall be organized in such manner as to ensure that no harm is done to aquatic resources. Amateur fishermen may not sell their catches.

35. The Minister of Agriculture shall be required, in agreement with the competent services, to issue orders regulating amateur and club fishing and to fix the taxes to be paid for licences, provided that the annual amount to be levied for such licences shall not exceed Syrian £2 for individual permits and Syrian £100 for club permits.

CHAPTER VIII

The sale of catches

36. Fishing vessels and fishermen shall be required to undertake initial preparation of their catches immediately after capture and to transport them in such manner that they arrive at market in good hygienic and commercial condition.

37. The marketing of catches wholesale shall be confined to such markets as fulfill hygienic and commercial requirements, and sale shall be by auction. Furthermore, the owners of boats may not sell their catches outside the markets specified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

38. (a) Municipalities and the public authorities shall place their enclosed and open public fish and sea food markets at the disposal of local co-operatives which shall be responsible for their management.

The said co-operatives shall be entitled to collect a sales tax not exceeding 5% of the sales price.

(b) The co-operatives shall be responsible for managing, operating and maintaining the said public open and enclosed markets on their own account and this shall include the right to hawk fish and sea food publicly.

(c) The municipalities and public authorities shall be responsible for managing the said open and enclosed markets and shall themselves levy the same sales tax if it proves impossible to make the co-operatives responsible therefor.

(d) Co-operatives may levy the same taxes in any open or enclosed markets which they set up at their own expense in accordance with the provisions of this Legislative Decree.

39. The Minister of Agriculture may authorize individuals, by the promulgation of Ministerial Orders, to open wholesale premises for the marketing of fish and sea food in areas where municipalities, the public authorities or co-operatives do not own sufficient markets, provided that the sales tax levied therein does not exceed 3% of the sales prices.

The owners of such premises shall be required to manage, operate and maintain them and to ensure the health inspection of catches at their own expense.

They shall not, however, be permitted to charge the sales tax on the fish, sea food, etc. allocated to them.

TITLE III

REGULATION OF SPONGE DIVING

CHAPTER I

Sponge diving

40. (a) Sponge diving regions shall coincide with sea fishing regions.

(b) Sponge diving shall be authorized in all waters except as otherwise provided by virtue of Orders issued by the Minister of Agriculture for protection purposes.

41. Sponge diving permits shall be valid for a single season, beginning on 1 April and expiring at the end of September of the same year. The Minister of Agriculture may, after hearing the opinion of the Council, extend the season and make sponge diving permits valid until the end of October.

42. (a) The Sponge Diving Supervisor shall be responsible for the proper use and the maintenance of sponge diving equipment and of the parts thereof.

(b) If the boat or its equipment are damaged in such a manner as to endanger the boat or the crew thereof, the master and the charterer shall be bound so to inform the competent authorities immediately with a view to ordering suspension of the licence. Such suspension shall cease only after it has been ascertained that the boat and its equipment are in good condition.

43. Sponges may be landed only at the places indicated on licenses.

CHAPTER II

Labor contracts in sponge diving

44. (a) The means to be employed in sponge diving and the prohibitions in respect thereof shall be laid down in Orders by the Minister of Agriculture.

(b) The General Directorate of Ports shall establish the conditions to be fulfilled by masters, divers and crews of boats engaged in sponge diving.

45. The charterer of the boat shall be forbidden to sign on masters, divers, and crews who fail to fulfil the conditions established by the General Directorate of Ports, and without the signature of a contract drawn up in the Arabic language, in three copies, in accordance with the model contract to be prepared by the said Directorate.

One copy of the said contract shall be delivered to the master, the second shall be filed with the competent Harbor Master's office; the third shall be delivered to the contracting party.

Such contracts shall be subject to the approval of the competent Harbor Master.

46. The salaries of the captain and the sponge diving supervisor shall be established by agreement between them on the one hand and the charterer on the other. The wages of the diver shall be established on

a basis proportionate to the value of his haul of all species and types of sponges, and shall not be less than 45%.

47. The diver shall be entitled to receive an advance on his wages immediately after approval of his contract and before beginning work, but the said advance shall not exceed £1,000.

The diver shall also be entitled to receive another advance on his wages, not exceeding Syrian £7 per day, for his maintenance. In any case, the diver shall not be entitled to receive advances on his annual share before the end of the fishing season, in excess of 75% of his estimated share.

48. The charterer shall maintain a special register, in accordance with the model prepared by the General Directorate of Ports, recording daily diving operations, the places and times at which they occurred, the quantities and species of sponges taken, approximately if necessary, in respect of each individual diver. The said register shall be in the charge of the supervisor, who, together with the diver, shall sign it daily.

49. (a) Divers' accounts shall be finally settled and the sums due them paid immediately after the sale of the sponges. Divers' accounts may, however, be settled on expiry of their contracts and before the sale of the sponges. In such cases, the charterer shall withhold 10% of the sum due to the diver as a guarantee against possible reductions in the market price, and final settlement shall take place after sale of the haul.

(b) The diver may settle his account on the basis of the price of sponges at settlement date.

50. In case of illness, accident or decease arising from employment, the provisions of labor legislation in force shall apply to the crew.

TITLE IV

PENALTIES

51. (a) Any boat used for fishing without the licence provided for under this Legislative Decree shall be seized together with all its gear and the owner shall be required to pay a fine equivalent to twice the annual tax due. The fine shall be fixed at Syrian £100 if the boat holds a valid licence for an activity other than fishing.

The payment of the fine shall not exempt the owner or charterer of the boat from settlement of the taxes laid down herein, if he wishes to obtain a fishing licence. The boat which has been seized shall not be released until the fine and the taxes have been paid in full.

(b) If the fine and taxes due are not paid after the court decision be-

comes final, the boat and its gear shall be sold at public auction, the proceeds being used to meet the amounts due and sale expenses, any amount outstanding being refunded to the owner of the boat.

(c) In the event of two or more offences being committed during the same year, the owner of the boat shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than one month and to payment of a fine equal to twice that provided for under paragraph (a) above. If the fine is not paid, the provisions of paragraph (b) above shall apply to the vessel.

52. All persons found fishing without the licence provided for herein shall be condemned to confiscation of their personal fishing gear by decision of a Court of Justice of the Peace.

Upon second offences such persons shall be condemned to a fine of not less than Syrian £10 and not more than Syrian £50.

53. Articles 51 and 52 above shall apply to vessels and persons engaging in fishing in the sectors where the fishing rights are leased if such fishing is being done without the authorization of the lessee.

54. (a) Fishing by the use of explosives, poison, fascines and other means, the use of which is prohibited under any Orders issued subsequently hereto and promulgated by the Minister of Agriculture, shall be prohibited in Public Waters and in private waters adjacent thereto. Any methods of fishing, the characteristics and types of which are considered contrary to the methods laid down in such Orders, shall be considered prohibited.

b) Offenders shall be considered to be:

- 1) persons fishing or seeking to fish by means of the prohibited methods;
- 2) persons in whose possession or on whose boats explosives or poisons are seized;
- 3) persons in whose possession a fisheries product is seized which on medical examination reveals the use of explosives or poisons.

(c) All offenders against this article shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than three years and shall be subject to a fine of not less than Syrian £200 and not more than Syrian £1,000 and to confiscation of the boat and its gear and withdrawal of the licence. Such offenders shall also be responsible for meeting the costs resulting from the offence.

(d) A second offence shall involve offenders in condemnation to the maximum penalty and fine in addition to confiscation as provided for in paragraph (c) above. Such offenders shall lose all right to further issue of a fishing licence.

55. Persons engaging in the fishing for species, the characteristics of which do not conform to those laid down in Orders by the Minister of Agriculture, and persons selling or holding such species in the places stated in the said Orders, shall be condemned to imprisonment for not less than 10 days and not more than three months or to a fine of Syrian £500 or both. Upon second offence the maximum penalty shall apply.

The fishing licence shall in any case be withdrawn, if the offender is a holder thereof, for a period not exceeding six months, and condemnation upon second offence shall involve final cancellation of the right to fish.

56. All offences against these provisions or against Orders or decisions issued hereunder shall be punished by confiscation of the product fished and its immediate sale by public auction or private agreement if the latter involves a better offer.

57. The fishing gear that does not conform to the specifications laid down herein or in Orders and decisions issued in pursuance hereof shall, without exception, be confiscated.

58. Boats and equipment shall be seized for a maximum period of thirty days in the event of failure by the owner or ship's captain to pay the fine due hereunder.

If at the expiry of the said period the fine has not been paid, the boat and its equipment shall be sold by public auction, it being unnecessary to issue a summons in that respect. The purpose of the sale shall be to meet the amount of the fine and the costs of sale.

Sale may be by private arrangement if no bidder is forthcoming at a second auction or if the highest bid is less than the amount due.

59. In all cases where boats, fishing gear and catches, that have been confiscated or seized, are sold in pursuance of the provisions herein contained, the rights of third parties shall be taken into consideration only in respect of any outstanding amount from the sales price remaining after full payment of taxes and fines due and of the costs of seizure, maintenance, expert valuation and sale.

60. If the lessee of fisheries sectors or concession holders for fish breeding commit an offence against the provisions herein contained, they shall be condemned to the penalties laid down under this Title, even if the said offence is not mentioned in the general specifications governing the lease or concession.

61. All violations of articles 32 and 33 of this Legislative Decree shall make offenders liable to a fine of not more than Syrian £1,000. If the owner of the undertaking, laboratory, pipe lines or boats fails to carry

out the measures required of him within the prescribed time limit, his work shall be suspended until the said measures have been carried out.

62. All violations of articles 36, 37 and 38 shall make offenders liable to a fine of not less than Syrian £10 and not more than Syrian £100, in addition to confiscation of the merchandise that is the subject of the violation.

63. (a) All persons who unload or seek to unload a shipment of sponges in violation of the provisions of article 43 above shall be subject to the following penalties:

- 1) confiscation of the shipment of sponges that is the subject of the violation;
- 2) payment of a fine of not less than Syrian £100 and not more than Syrian £500 and imprisonment for not less than 10 days and not more than three months.

(b) The same penalties shall apply to all persons engaging in sponge diving without a licence or buying or selling sponges collected in violation of the provisions contained herein.

64. Informers reporting violations of the provisions herein contained and officials drafting the records of violations shall be paid a reward of one third of the product from the sale of the confiscated catches and fishing equipment.

TITLE V

GENERAL

CHAPTER I

Exemptions

65. Exemption from licensing taxes shall apply to motorized fishing vessels authorized to fish for the first time, when their engines have a power of 100 CV. or more, and this in the manner laid down below:

- (a) for a period of five complete years, if the vessel is equipped with an automatic refrigerator and an underwater detector;
- (b) for a period of three complete years, if the vessel is equipped only with an automatic refrigerator;
- (c) it shall be the responsibility of the General Directorate of Ports to ascertain that the refrigerator and detector are in good condition.

66. Motorized fishing vessels holding licences at the time of the issue of this Legislative Decree shall be exempt from half the taxes due in the following circumstances:

- (a) for a period of five complete years, if the vessel is equipped with an automatic refrigerator and an underwater detector;
- (b) for a period of three complete years, if the vessel is equipped only with an automatic refrigerator;
- (c) it shall be the responsibility of the General Directorate of Ports to ascertain that the refrigerator and detector are in good condition.

67. Without prejudice to any legal provision in force or to the provisions of Act No. 178 of 1957 as amended by Order No. 11 of 1958:

- (a) co-operatives shall be exempt from the Customs duties payable on the import of boats, fishing gear, means of transport equipped with thermal or refrigeration isolation facilities, the non-portable refrigerators they require and other equipment not produced locally.

The Minister of Agriculture shall determine the articles to benefit from this exemption in agreement with the Minister of Finance.

- (b) the transport of equipment referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above that belongs to co-operatives shall enjoy a reduction of 25% when carried by public means of transport that are the property of the State;
- (c) co-operative societies shall be entitled to have analyses made free of charge for their professional needs in the State laboratories;
- (d) a reduction of 25% shall be granted to co-operative societies on fishing licence taxes payable on their boats in pursuance to the provisions contained herein;
- (e) professional guidance by the competent Ministries shall be given in the first place in respect of trades providing a livelihood from fishing or diving operations carried out by co-operative societies;
- (f) the Minister of Agriculture may make available to co-operative societies free of charge, work instruments for joint use and collective guidance material and in particular vocational assistance equipment, provided that the said co-operatives guarantee the maintenance and repair of the said instruments, material and equipment at their own expense;
- (g) all the foregoing shall be regulated by Orders issued by the Minister of Agriculture.

68. The Government Departments and scientific and technical institutes and also the Universities of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be free from the restrictions imposed on fishing, so as to enable them to undertake such studies and research as are required.

No other institutions may undertake such studies or research, save with the permission of the Minister of Agriculture and after authorization free of charge by the department responsible for the issue of fishing licences.

CHAPTER II

The competent authorities

69. The planning of State policy for the protection of aquatic life and the development of aquatic resources shall be the responsibility of a council entitled the Higher Council for Aquatic Resources. Its membership shall be as follows:

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| 1) The Minister of Agriculture
or his representative | Chairman |
| 2) The Director General of Ports
or his representative | Vice-Chairman |
| 3) A specialized first secretary | appointed by the Minister
of Agriculture |
| 4) A specialized second secretary | appointed by the Director
General of Ports |
| 5) A representative of the
Ministry of the Interior | Member |
| 6) A representative of the
Ministry of Public Works
(Directorate of Irrigation) | " |
| 7) A representative of the
Ministry of Social Affairs
and Labor | " |
| 8) A representative of the
Ministry of Municipal
and Rural Affairs | " |
| 9) A representative of the
Ministry of Finance | " |
| 10) A representative of the
University of Damascus | " |

70. The said Council shall prepare its own draft rules of procedure which shall be approved by a Decree to be issued by the Council of Ministers. The rules of procedure may make provision for payments to the Council for its meetings within the limits of the credits provided for that purpose in the budget.

71. Any Orders issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in pursuance of this Legislative Decree shall be adopted on the proposal of the Higher Council for Aquatic Resources by a majority of members present.

72. (a) The Ministry of National Defence (General Directorate of Ports) shall be competent for dealing with administrative, financial and disciplinary matters connected with sea fishing. The senior and junior officials of the said Directorate shall act as officers of the Judicial Police for the execution of the provisions herein contained. The ships of the Syrian Navy shall also be entitled to carry out searches and inspections and the captains of warships shall exercise the functions of officers of the Judicial Police.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture shall be competent for all other questions connected with the execution of this Legislative Decree. It shall assign the necessary technical officials for the execution of these provisions to the General Directorate of Ports.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture shall communicate directly with the General Directorate of Ports in all matters connected with the execution of this article.

73. The members of the Armed Forces, of the Police Force and the Customs shall be required to co-operate with the competent officials for the execution of the provisions of this Legislative Decree. The officials concerned shall have the right to apply directly to the nearest military or police station or customs office to request assistance.

74. All provisions that run counter to this Legislative Decree and in particular the following Acts and Orders are hereby repealed:

- the Sea Fishing Act of 30 December 1882 and the amendments thereto;
- the sponge diving taxes fixed under article 7 of Order No. 95/LR of 9 May 1939 regulating sponge diving. Paragraph 2 of article 3 and also article 4 of Order No. 73/LR dated 16 July 1951;
- Order No. 39 dated 9 October 1920 adopted by the State of Lebanon and also the Order adopted by the Syrian State and approved on 8 January 1930 and numbered 1320;

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- Article 12 of Legislative Decree No. 37 of 29 February 1940 and the amendments made thereto under Act No. 409 of 18 May 1948;
 - Order No. 2775 of 28 September 1929 on the supervision of coastal marine fisheries;
 - Order No. 610 of 31 August 1955 on the prohibition of sea fishing during the fish spawning season;
 - the sea fishing regulation attached to Act No. 163 dated 20 June 1959.

75. This Legislative Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force upon its issue.¹

¹ *Ed. Note:* The Legislative Decree was published in the Official Gazette No. 41 of 10 September 1964.

TABLE 1

LEGISLATIVE DECREE NR. 30 DATED 25/8/1964 CONCERNING
AQUATIC ORGANISMS LAW
PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE NR. 41 DATED
10/9/1964

Kind of Boats	Step	Boat's Loading Capacity	Motor Power	Fees L.S.
A) Mixed or Internal Water Boat (without motor)	1	Over 20 barrels.		25
	2	Between 10 and 20 barrels.		20
	3	Between 5 and 10		15
	4	Between 2 and 5		10
	5	Less than 2 barrels		free
B) Mixed or Internal water boat with motor.		Unified more than 2 barrels		40
C) Sea boat without motor		Unified more than 2 barrels		10
D) Sea boat with motor but without bottom shovel	1	more than 20 barrels.		100
	2	between 10 & 20 barrels.		50
	3	between 5 and 10		25
	4	between 2 and 5		20
	5	less than 2 barrels.		free
E) Sea boat with motor and bottom shovel			upto 25 horses for each horse between 25 and 50	25
			for each horse between 50 & 100	2
			for each horse more than 100	115
				1
F) Marine boat for unified sponge-fishing without diving apparatus				50
G) Marine boat for unified sponge-fishing supplied with organized diving apparatus				100