

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**DECREE No. 68
of 31 December 1994**

**RULES
for Application of the
People's Republic of Bulgaria¹ Sea Spaces Act**

Promulgated State Gazette No. 9/02.02.1988

Amended SG No. 82/1988.

**Chapter One
REGIME GOVERNING ENTRY AND EXIT OF SHIPS
FROM PORTS AND ROADSTEADS**

Article 1

- (1) The regime of ships navigation in the internal sea waters, in ports and roadsteads shall be established by the Ministry of Defense (MD) in coordination with the Ministry of Transport (MT).
- (2) The regime governing navigation of non-military ships in the zones of the ports of Varna and Bourgas shall be established by appropriate rules of the State Inspection on Navigation, in coordination with MD and published in the bulletin "Notice to Mariners" ("Izvestie do Moreplavatelite").

Article 2

Navigation shall be prohibited in ports and roadsteads of any vessels without the colors of the State or of the navy made, and without a name or number.

Article 3

Any practice in ports and roadsteads shall be performed strictly observing the International Rules for Preventing Collision at Sea.

Article 4

The traffic regulation in ports and roadsteads shall be performed by roadstead posts. Signals, raised at the roadstead posts shall be compulsory for all ships. The ships disobeying those signals carry respective responsibility if an accident takes place, regardless of the fact that they have acted according to the International Rules for Preventing Collision at Sea.

**Chapter Two
VISIT BY A FOREIGN WARSHIP OR SUBMARINE**

Article 5

- (1) Entry of a foreign warship into the internal sea waters and calls at open ports and roadsteads of the People's Republic of Bulgaria depending on their aims and tasks may be official, unofficial, business and emergency.
- (2) An official visit is paid on the occasion of national events and celebrations, when a Head of State, of a Government or of a foreign affairs body is on the ship, or when a development and strengthening of friendly relations are undertaken, as well as when an agreement has been reached to give the visit an official character.
- (3) An unofficial visit is paid with educational, scientific or other purposes, when official ceremonies are not planned, unless otherwise agreed.
- (4) A business visit is paid with the purpose of material and technical supplies, of passengers transportation and in other similar cases.

¹ According to the Bulgarian Constitution, accepted by the Grand National Assembly on the 12 July 1991 the official name of the country is Republic of Bulgaria.

- (5) An emergency visit is paid only in exceptional cases: damages, casualties or very strong storms, for rendering urgent medical help and in other urgent cases.

Article 6

A request for an authorization to pay an official, unofficial or business visit by a foreign warship shall be made through diplomatic channels and the following information shall be given in it:

1. The flag State, the number of the ships and their class;
2. The purpose and character of the visit (official, unofficial, business);
3. The port to be visited;
4. Supposed date and planned duration of visit;
5. The names of the ships and basic data about them, displacement, length, width, wading;
6. The basic power installation, operating on nuclear or ordinary fuel;
7. The rank and family name of the commander of the group and of the master of each ship;
8. Total number of the officers, total number of the petty officers and of the soldiers, a list of the passengers of each ship;
9. Radio frequencies, which the ships would use during the visit as well as the power of the radio transmitter.

Article 7

- (1) In case of an emergency entry into the internal sea waters and in case of a call at a port and a roadstead of the People's Republic of Bulgaria the master of the foreign warship shall be obliged to immediately inform the harbor-master of the nearest port and to sail to the place indicated to him.
- (2) After arrival at the port or at the place, the master of the foreign warship presents to the highest ranking naval officer the following information: name of the ship, the rank and family name of the master of the ship, the causes for the emergency visit, necessary aid, approximate duration of visit.
- (3) After the causes for the emergency visit have ceased their action, the foreign warship proceeds from the waters of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, informing in advance the highest ranking naval commanding officer.

Article 8

- (1) No more than 3 foreign warships may simultaneously be lying in the internal sea waters and in the ports of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and the duration of their visit may be up to seven days, unless another term is specified in the authorization for visit.
- (2) Under exceptional circumstances the foreign warship may be offered to early leave the port and the territorial sea of the People's Republic of Bulgaria within a specified period of time.
- (3) When joint military practice with ships of other States are to be conducted, the Minister of Defense shall determine, in each specific case the number of the ships, the character of the military practice, they are going to participate in and the duration of their visit.

Article 9

While lying in the internal sea waters, ports and roadsteads of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the foreign warship shall be prohibited to:

1. Conduct shooting with the existing kinds of weapons save saluting;
2. Trawl or lay mines ;
3. Launch the airplanes and helicopters on board, and launch aerostats or another aircraft;
4. Let on water cutters and boats;
5. Conduct practice with boats carrying armed crew and make a landing;
6. Use radio technical and hydro-acoustical equipment while lying in port;
7. Take pictures of warships and military objects on the shore, take panorama pictures;

8. Make an unwarranted change of the indicated place, use without authorization port facilities or equipment;
9. Let on water persons or objects, as well as conduct any underwater activity;
10. Discharge waste waters and to dump refuse;
11. Execute death sentences;
12. Conduct any other activity, not relating to the purpose of visit.

Article 10

By request of the master of the foreign warship the highest ranking naval commanding officer may permit:

1. Performance of underwater activities, relating to surveillance and repair of the underwater part of the ship's hull;
2. The use of radio equipment for communication with his command. In the request for authorization the wavelength and the way of accomplishment of the communication shall be reported. Radio transmission and radio receiving in this case shall be done only with uncoded text;
3. Landing of armed crew with the purpose of participation in reviews or mourning ceremonies.

Article 11

The protocol and ceremonial actions in the process of an official, unofficial and business visit by a foreign warship in the ports of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be conducted following a program, coordinated in advance through diplomatic channels.

Article 12

The meeting of the foreign warship shall be performed by a chosen warship of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The place of meeting shall be coordinated in advance.

Article 13

- (1) For the purpose of intercommunicating between the highest ranking naval commanding officer and the master of the foreign warship, a liaison officer shall be appointed as a representative of the highest ranking naval commanding officer.
- (2) The liaison officer shall acquaint the master of the foreign warship with the rules, which he must be guided by during his stay in the Bulgarian port.
- (3) The master of the foreign warship shall be obliged to inform the liaison officer about changes in the initially given information in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.

Article 14

- (1) The regime governing the going ashore by the foreign warship's crew shall be established together with the highest ranking naval commanding officer in accordance with the program of visit.
- (2) The personnel of the foreign warship shall be prohibited to go ashore armed, save in the cases referred to in Article 10, subparagraph 3.
- (3) Officers may go ashore carrying with cold arms if they are an element of the officer's uniform.
- (4) By authorization of the highest ranking naval commanding officer the master of the foreign warship may appoint his own unarmed patrols for the period of time, during which the crew is in furlough on the shore,.

Article 15

- (1) Members of the foreign warship's crew, who are on the shore, shall be obliged to comply with the laws of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and with the public order and to respect the ethics and traditions of Bulgarian people.
- (2) Persons who have violated the laws during their stay on shore are liable in accordance with the legislation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 16

- (1) A request for an authorization to enter the internal sea waters and to visit Bulgarian ports and roadsteads by a foreign submarine shall be done through diplomatic channels.
- (2) In the request for visit the following information must be given depending on the character and purpose of the submarine:
 1. In the case of a military submarine - the information shall be supplied as requested from a warship and referred to in the provisions of Article 6;
 2. In the case of a Government submarine, operated for non commercial purposes - the information shall be supplied as requested from a Government ship, operated for non commercial purposes and referred to in the provisions of Article 20;
 3. In the case of a non-military submarine:
 - a) The flag State;
 - b) The purpose of visit;
 - c) Name of the master and crew number;
 - d) Basic power installation of the ship and the fuel it is operated on;
 - e) What kinds of commodities it is going to carry to and from the Bulgarian port;
 - f) The dates of the beginning and end of the supposed visit.

Article 17

Depending on the purpose of operation, the foreign submarine during its passage through the territorial sea and through the internal sea waters, as well as while lying in the country's ports and roadsteads, shall be regarded respectively as a warship, as a Government ship, operated for non-commercial purposes or as a non-military ship.

Article 18

After receiving a request by a foreign ship for an authorization to enter the internal sea waters and visit open Bulgarian ports and before submitting an appropriate proposal to the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shall coordinate all the questions:

1. In the case of a warship and in the case of a military submarine - with MD and with the Ministry of the Interior (MI);
2. In the case of a Government ship and a submarine, operated for non-commercial purposes - with MD, MI and with the body, by the invitation of which the visit is paid;
3. In the case of a non-military submarine - with MT, MI and MD;
4. In the case of a non-military nuclear-powered ship and in the case of a ship carrying radio active substances - with MI, MD, MT and with the Committee for Application of Nuclear Power for Peaceful Purposes.

Article 19

In accordance with the requirements of the Convention for the Black Sea Straits, signed in Montreu in 1936, Bulgarian ports may be visited only by military submarines of the Black Sea Coastal States.

Chapter Three

VISIT BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SHIP OPERATED FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Article 20

A request for an authorization for entry by a foreign Government ship, operated for non-commercial purposes shall be made through diplomatic channels and the following information shall be given in it:

1. The flag State, the name, type, purpose of the ship and port of registration;
2. The purpose and character of the visit;

3. If the ship has a scientific research purpose, the name of the scientific research program in which the ship participates and for which the Bulgarian side has given its agreement to be performed;
4. The port to be visited;
5. Supposed date of visit and planned duration of stay;
6. The basic information about the ship - displacement, length, width, wading;
7. The basic power installation;
8. The name and family name of the master of the ship; the number of the crew and of the auxiliary staff and the number of scientists as well as their nationality.

Article 21

In cases of an emergency entry into the internal sea waters and call at a port and roadstead of the People's Republic of Bulgaria the master of the foreign Government ship operated for non-commercial purposes shall be guided by the provisions of Article 7.

Article 22

Members of the crew and the other persons, included in the crew list of a foreign Government ship operated for non-commercial purposes while being on the territory of the country shall be subordinate to the criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Chapter Four

VISIT BY A FOREIGN NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP AND BY A SHIP, CARRYING RADIO ACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Article 23

- (1) A request for an authorization to enter the internal sea waters, ports and roadsteads of the People's Republic of Bulgaria by a foreign non-military nuclear-powered ship and by a ship carrying radio active substances shall be made through diplomatic channels.
- (2) In the request for an authorization for visit, depending on the purpose of visit and on the type of the ship the information referred to in the provisions of Article 6, respectively of Articles 16 and 20 must be provided for.
- (3) In the case of nuclear-powered ships, in addition to the documents referred to in the foregoing paragraph, the following documents shall be enclosed as well:
 1. A copy of the safety records of the nuclear-powered passenger or cargo ship, issued in conformity with the International Convention for Human Life Protection at Sea from 1974;
 2. Forms of safety instructions and of instructions for exploitation, certified by the competent authorities of the State of the port of registration and elaborated in accordance with the International Convention for Human Life Protection at Sea from 1974;
 3. A declaration certified by the Government of the State of the port of ship's registration that:
 - a) No radio active or other substances polluting the marine environment will be discharged during the visit;
 - b) No mounting and repair activity relating to the nuclear power installation will be conducted during the visit, which may bring to a regime of nuclear risk or to a nuclear accident, leading to critical situations;
 - c) In case if a situation of distress would occur on the ship, relating to the outflow of radio active substances, a nuclear accident, leading to a critical situation or another state of the nuclear power installation, which may create conditions for breach of the safety of the nuclear-powered ship, the ship's master shall immediately inform the competent authorities of the People's Republic of Bulgaria;
 - d) The construction of the nuclear power installation and of the nuclear-powered commercial ship as a whole shall be in a compliance with the requirements of the Code for Safety of Nuclear Commercial Ships from 1981 and of the International Maritime Organization.

- (4) In addition to the documents required in the provisions of Article 6, respectively of Articles 16 and 20, the following documents shall be required as well for granting an authorization for visit to ships, carrying radio active substances :
1. Name of the radio active substance;
 2. Description of the physical and chemical form of the radio active substance or an information that the substance is related to the radio active substances of a special kind;
 3. The maximum activity of the radio active substance and of the substances in the package of polluted substances, and in respect to substances undergoing nuclear decomposition - their mass on the date of departure, certified by the document of the producer;
 4. Category of packaging;
 5. Transportation index;
 6. Complete information about the preservation of the packaging, including all certificate numbers - permits by the competent authority and distinguishing signs.

Article 24

The information referred to in the letter "c", subparagraph 3, Paragraph 3 of the foregoing Article must contain:

1. The time, the exact place of the ship and the character of the damage;
2. The supposed or established cause and the supposed development of the accident;
3. General characteristics of the radio active emission, including: as much as possible the character, the possible physical and chemical form and quantity, the contents and the effective height of the radio active emission;
4. Protective measures planned or undertaken by the ship's master.

Article 25

When inspecting the correspondence of the documents found on the ship and its physical condition to the documents required by the provisions of Article 23, the competent authorities might require additional information and records, necessary for clarification of the questions concerning nuclear and radiation safety of the ship. The master of the ship shall fulfill these requirements, which shall be a condition for granting the final authorization for entry into the port.

Article 26

When the potentially dangerous activities referred to in Article 23, Paragraph 3, subparagraph 3 letter "b" have to be performed, an authorization shall be obtained from the harbor-master. The request must contain the character of the potentially dangerous works, the planned technical and organizational safety precautions as well as the approximate period of time necessary for their completion.

Article 27

The operative authority in the People's Republic of Bulgaria responsible for the enforcement of the requirements referred to in the present Chapter shall be the State Inspection on Navigation (SIN).

Article 28

Ships carrying nuclear materials and other radio active substances in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria must comply with the requirements of the International Code for Carrying Hazardous Substances, Class 7, and of the International Convention for Human Life Protection at Sea from 1974 as well as with the rules, established for that purpose in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 29

The provisions of this Chapter shall also apply to foreign nuclear-powered warships and the control on the compliance with the safety precaution requirements shall be performed by the authorities of MD.

Chapter Five
REGIME GOVERNING NAVIGATION AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF NAVIGATION IN CERTAIN AREAS

Article 30

With the purpose of guaranteeing safety of navigation and national security of the country, MD in coordination with MT and MI establishes the regime governing navigation in accordance with the legislation and International Law by:

1. Establishing, changing and canceling traffic separation schemes, sea lanes, navigable channels and recommended routes in the internal sea waters and in the territorial sea - for transit passage and for visiting open ports;
2. Establishing zones:
 - a) Prohibited for navigation by ships and other vessels;
 - b) Temporarily prohibited for navigation;
 - c) Prohibited for anchorage, for fishing with the use of gear close to the bottom, for underwater and dragging activity, for trawling near the bottom and for underwater explosions.

Chapter Six
PROTECTION AND REGIME OF THE STATE MARITIME FRONTIER
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Article 31

In the territorial sea, the internal sea waters and on the islands in them an immigration regime shall be established. The control on the compliance with it shall be a responsibility of the authorities of MI.

Article 32

Bulgarian and foreign ships cross the State maritime frontier of the People's Republic of Bulgaria at the established points of approach on the traffic separation schemes.

Article 33

The following shall be considered as a trespass of the State maritime frontier:

1. Crossing the State maritime frontier by a submarine in a scuttled underwater position;
2. (Amended SG, No. 82/1988) Entry in the territorial sea and the internal sea waters or an attempt to leave them in violation of the conditions for innocent passage.
3. Penetration or an attempt to penetrate a Bulgarian or a foreign ship by persons trying to illegally leave the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 34

A non-military ship lying in the territorial sea and in the internal sea waters of the People's Republic of Bulgaria may be arrested for violations, for which the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act provides arrest, and be escorted to the nearest Bulgarian port.

Article 35

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

- (1) When operating Bulgarian and foreign yachts, boats and other vessels for the purposes of fishing, sports, tourism and entertainment, while visiting and lying in ports and nautical bases or while navigating in the internal sea waters and in the territorial sea the following shall be prohibited:
 1. Commercial transportation of persons and cargo without authorization;
 2. Steering by persons, who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
 3. Pulling out of objects, representing cultural, historical and other value from the sea-bed;
 4. Conducting any shooting and blasting, save as signals of distress;
 5. Polluting the marine environment.

- (2) Landing of the vessels referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be done in nautical bases and ports, as well as in the coastal zones for temporary landing, established by the municipal councils, after requesting the opinion of the Frontier Immigration Service. In case of a distress the vessel may land at the nearest coast.

Article 36

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

To the South of the Parallel of the lighthouse of Achtopol the operation of vessels shall be prohibited for the purposes of fishing, sports, tourism and entertainment, save for the fishing ships of enterprises and cooperatives and the boats of native fishermen.

Article 37

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

- (1) All vessels excluding the navigational vessels of the Navy and of MI shall be registered in SIN.
- (2) The vessels for sports and tourism of foreign nationals shall be registered in and enter the files of the nautical bases at the tourist complexes or at the ports Varna, Nessebar, Pomorie and Bourgas.
- (3) The academic boats, water bicycles, canoe, kayak, inflatable boats, surfs and other similar devices for sports and entertainment shall not be registered in SIN. Water bases, tourist complexes, sports organizations, stations for resort and campings register these devices when the latter are in their regions.

Article 38

- (1) Registered vessels shall enter the files of a specified port or a nautical base and a board number shall be given to them, corresponding to the registration number given by SIN.
- (2) The manner of inscription of the board numbers, the port or the nautical base, under the responsibility of which (in the files of which) the vessel is, as well as the size of the letters and numbers shall be designated by SIN and by MI.

Article 39

- (1) Ships, cutters and other vessels of SIN for control and for rescuing activity shall be painted in red.
- (2) (Repealed - SG. No. 82/1988)

Article 40

- (1) For the purposes of landing and keeping fishing boats and vessels for sports and tourism, nautical bases shall be equipped in residential areas. Their sites shall be designated by the executive committees of the municipal councils.
- (2) In the tourist complexes Albena, Zlatni Piasatsi, Drouzhba, Slanchev Briag and Dyuni nautical bases shall be constructed for landing, keeping, repair and equipment of vessels for sports and tourism and in the ports Varna, Nessebar, Pomorie and Bourgas places shall be designated for the same types of vessels.
- (3) (Paragraphs 3-7 amended SG No. 82/1988) The places for nautical bases shall be coordinated with the respective authorities and shall be equipped by the municipal councils or by the tourist complexes, on the territory of which they are and which organize their protection and appoint a person in charge of the base. When conditions exist nautical bases may be equipped also by sports organizations, resort stations and campings after prior coordination with the respective authorities.
- (4) Equipping nautical bases shall be conducted in coordination with the Frontier Immigration Service.
- (5) In residential areas, where the construction of nautical bases is not recommended because of the small number of vessels, the municipal councils shall organize the protection of the vessels.
- (6) Keeping vessels on the shore outside ports, nautical bases or places for operation, established by the municipal councils and referred to in Paragraphs 5 shall not be allowed.
- (7) For the purpose of accepting foreign vessels in the nautical bases and in the tourist complexes temporary checkpoints for passport, customs and health examinations may if necessary be open.

Article 41

- (1) (Amended SG, No. 82/1988) Fishing ships of enterprises and cooperatives shall go fishing in the territorial sea, in the contiguous and in the exclusive economic zone after a prior request for an authorization. The officials on duty in the fishing bases shall notify the frontier units in Varna and Bourgas for the departure and return of each fishing ship as well as for the area of fishing. Fishing shall be performed outside the traffic separation schemes, the water lanes, navigable channels and recommended routes.
- (2) Fishing, scientific research, economic and geological prospecting activities in the contiguous and in the exclusive economic zone shall be conducted according to the requirements of the foregoing Paragraph.

Article 42

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

- (1) Boats of enterprises, cooperative organizations and of private persons can be used for fishing at any time of the day and night at a distance of up to 5 miles from the baselines, from which the territorial sea is measured.
- (2) Yachts, boats and other vessels for sports, tourism and entertainment may be operated only in daytime (from sunrise till sunset) at a distance of up to 5 miles from the baselines, from which the territorial sea is measured.
- (3) When technical fitness and safety requirements allow, and being authorized by competent authorities, the vessels referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 may be operated for fishing, sports, tourism and entertainment at a distance greater than 5 miles. Using this regime an authorization by competent authorities may be granted for fishing, sports, tourism and entertainment at any time of the day and night.

Article 43

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

- (1) Water bicycles, water skis, windsurfs, inflatable boats and other small vessels for sports and entertainment without motors shall be operated in the zones of the tourist complexes, resort stations and campings only at daytime outside the zones for swimming at a distance of up to 1 kilometer under the observation and control of the life-rescuing guards. No documents shall be required from the users of such vessels.
- (2) The organization of regattas, competitions and other sports activity at sea must be coordinated in advance with the responsible authorities of the Immigration Service and with SIN.

Article 44

(Amended SG, No. 82/1988)

When leaving one nautical base and being established in another nautical base the vessels must be registered at the new nautical base.

Article 45

(Repealed SG, No. 82/1988).

Chapter Seven

REGIME GOVERNING THE EXERCISING OF RIGHTS AND POWER BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Article 46

The authorities of MIE and MD shall take, when necessary, in respect to non-military ships all the measures referred to in the provisions of Article 30 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act, the controlling authorities of MT - the measures referred to in items 1, 3, 4 and 5, and in the cases of violation of the sovereign legitimate rights of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone - the measures referred to in the provisions of Articles 45 and 51 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act shall apply.

Article 47

- (1) For communication with Bulgarian and foreign non-military ships the International Communications Code and the international channel for radio communications shall be used (156.8 MH).
- (2) In order to stop non-military vessels in the territorial sea and in the internal sea waters, the ships of MI and MD transmit the following signals:
 1. At daytime a flag L (Lima) according to the International Communications Code shall be raised on the mast;
 2. At night two green lights shall be on, situated on the mast above each other.

Article 48

- (1) The inspection of a non-military ship may include, depending on the case an: the ship's and navigational records, documents of the members of the crew and of the passengers, documents of the commodities, inspection of the ship's premises and of other sites.
- (2) The master of the inspected ship shall be obliged to present to the inspecting authority the required documents and information.

Article 49

In the cases of arrest of a non-military ship, armed officials may be left on board for escorting the ship to the specified port or to the State Frontier of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 50

- (1) For the inspection or for the arrest of a non-military ship a written statement shall be drawn up in Bulgarian in 3 copies: one for the inspecting authority, one for the authority of the competency of which the violation is and one for the violator.
- (2) The statement shall be signed by the authority, drawing up the statement, and by the master of the inspected or arrested ship.
- (3) In the case of a ship's arrest, the ship's documents shall be taken and shall be attached to the written statement.
- (4) If the master of the inspected or arrested ship considers the actions of the inspecting authority incorrect, or if he does not agree with the contents of the statements, he may write a note in any language in the statements itself or in a separate document, which is attached to the statement.
- (5) If the ship's master refuses to sign the statement, an appropriate note shall be written in it.
- (6) On the basis of the written statement, which has been drawn up, the head of the authority, of the competence of which the violation is, shall issue a penal decree.

Article 51

- (1) In the case when a crime is committed, the materials shall be submitted to the prosecutor's office within 24 hours, together with the arrested ship, the persons, the instrument of the crime and the object of crime.
- (2) Providing persons on board the arrested foreign non-military ship with the necessary material technical provisions and with commercial and other services shall be performed by the agency "INFLOT" by request of the master or of the owner of the ship following the established regime.

Article 52

Competent Bulgarian authorities have the following rights in respect to an arrested foreign non-military ship:

1. To force it to leave the limits of the territorial sea of the People's Republic of Bulgaria .
2. To hand it over to authorized representatives of the respective State;
3. To impose confiscation under the regime, established by the legislation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Chapter Eight
REGIME GOVERNING MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, PROSPECTING AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Article 53

- (1) Bulgarian organizations conduct scientific research, prospecting and economic activity in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria under programs, affirmed by competent authorities, in coordination with MD and with the Committee for Preservation of Natural Environment (CPNE).
- (2) Exploration, development and exploitation of the mineral resources of the continental shelf shall be conducted after an authorization is granted by the Committee for Geology, in coordination with MD and with CPNE.
- (3) Joint scientific research, prospecting and economic activities in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be conducted by Bulgarian and foreign organizations on the grounds of an agreement and programs, approved by the Minister of Economy and Planning.

Article 54

Programs and agreements referred to in the foregoing Article necessarily envisage effective measures for:

1. Preservation and reproduction of marine resources;
2. Protection of marine environment from pollution;
3. Rational, complex exploitation and preservation of the sea-bed and of the subsoil.

Article 55

The coordination and control on compliance with the programs referred to in Article 53 shall be performed by the Ministry of Economy and Planning and by the Committee for Geology.

Article 56

- (1) Foreign nationals and organizations may conduct scientific research and prospecting activity in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria according to the provisions of Articles 55 and 56 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act after an authorization has been granted by the Minister of Economy and Planning, in coordination with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, The Committee for Geology, MD and with other interested ministries and agencies.
- (2) The request for authorization referred to in Article 57 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act shall be made by diplomatic channels at least 6 months in advance of the supposed initial date of beginning of the scientific research and prospecting activity and shall be accompanied by a specific program, containing complete information about:
 1. The character and purposes of scientific research and prospecting activity;
 2. The methods and devices to be used, including the names, tonnage, type and class of the ship and description of the scientific equipment;
 3. Coordinates of the geographical zones, in which research will be conducted, and the ports to be visited;
 4. Supposed date of the first visit and of the final departure of the ships for scientific research and of the other vessels for maritime research, as well as the dates of transposition and taking down of the equipment;
 5. Name of the agency, on behalf of which research is conducted, name of its head and of the persons responsible for the project;
 6. Possibility for participation of Bulgarian organizations and scientists;
 7. Other information, which may be required.

Article 57

Foreign nationals or organizations may start the realization of the scientific research project not earlier than 6 months from the date of presenting the information, listed in Paragraph 2 of the foregoing Article, unless another term is mentioned in the authorization.

Article 58

The Minister of Economy and Planning may:

1. Suspend the scientific research, conducted by foreign nationals and organizations when:
 - a) Scientific research activity is not conducted in accordance with the presented information, requested under the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 56;
 - b) During the realization of the project foreign nationals and organizations do not comply with the provisions of Article 56 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act.
2. Terminate any activity of maritime scientific research, conducted by foreign nationals and organizations when:
 - a) The activity contradicts the provisions of Article 56, Paragraph 3 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act or represents a significant change in the program or in the scientific research;
 - b) A violation referred to in subparagraph 1 is not eliminated within a reasonable period of time.

Chapter Nine

PROTECTION OF SEA WATER FROM POLLUTION

Article 59

The control on prevention of pollution in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be performed by CPNE and by MT.

Article 60

- (1) For the prevention of marine environmental pollution by ships, coastal sources and all kinds of pollutants the executive committees of the regional councils in Varna and Bourgas organize permanent coordination commissions with representatives of MT, CPNE and the Committee for Application of Nuclear Power for Peaceful Purposes.
- (2) The commissions coordinate the activity of operative authorities in cases of significant pollution or danger of such a pollution of the marine environment.
- (3) Bulgarian and foreign specialists may be involved in the commissions for solving specified problems.

Article 61

- (1) Operative activity in cases of situations of distress with a danger of marine environmental pollution by ships and the control on the compliance with of the requirements of the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution by Ships from 1977, 1978 in respect to the special zones shall be performed by the authorities of MT and CPNE, and the control on pollution by coastal sources and on compliance with the requirements of the national legislation concerning environmental protection - by the authorities of CPNE.
- (2) In cases of pollution of the marine environment competent authorities of MT and CPNE inform each other, mutually coordinate their activity and combine their efforts and the whole specialized equipment for elimination of the consequences of pollution or for its prevention.

Article 62

Damages from oil discharges and from another pollution of the marine environment shall be determined by a unified methodology, approved by CPNE, MT and the Ministry of the Internal Affairs and brought in conformity with international standards for the special marine zones.

Article 63

- (1) In the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria pollution of marine environment by dumping shall be prohibited.
- (2) In the sense of the present Rules "dumping" means each willful:
 1. Throwing out of ships, airplanes, platforms or other artificial devices wastes or other materials into the sea;
 2. Running aground ships, airplanes, platforms or other artificial devices.

- (3) The following shall not be considered to be dumping:
1. Throwing into the sea of wastes or other materials, inherent to or being a result of the normal exploitation of the ships, airplanes, platforms or other artificial devices in the sea and of the normal operation of their equipment, excluding the wastes or other materials on board such ships, airplanes, platforms or other artificial devices in the sea, which are exploited with the purpose of removal of such materials transported to or from ships, airplanes, platforms or other artificial devices in the sea, as well as the scrap, which is a result of processing of similar wastes or other materials on board such ships, airplanes, platforms or devices;
 2. Placing of materials in the sea with another purpose, different from their being disposed of, with the condition that such a placing does not contradict the present Rules.
- (4) The provisions of this Article do not apply in the cases when there is a risk for a human life or a risk of complete destruction or loss of the ship or airplane and in every other case, when there is a risk for a human life, if dumping is the only way to prevent such a danger and if a probability exists that the damage, caused by dumping will be smaller, than in any other way of reaction. Dumping in this case has to be completed in such a way, that the probability for causing damage to human life or to the marine flora and fauna should be brought to minimum.

Chapter Ten

GUARANTEEING SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

Article 64

The Hydrographical Service of MD shall be the competent authority guaranteeing safety of navigation within the limits of the internal sea waters and in the territorial sea shall be according to the provision of Article 66 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act , and in the ports and channels - MT will be the competent authority.

Article 65

- (1) Placing permanent floating and stationary devices for guaranteeing safety of navigation in the internal sea waters, in the territorial sea and at the coast of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be done by the Hydrographical Service of MD.
- (2) Placing temporary coastal or floating devices with the purpose of guaranteeing safety of navigation and placing equipment for scientific research or for other temporary purposes by other organizations shall be done after an authorization has been granted by the Hydrographical Service of MD.
- (3) Places for building artificial islands and devices shall be coordinated with MD and MT. The information concerning these places shall be published in the bulletin "Notice to Mariners" by the Hydrographical Service of MD at starting the work for their equipment.
- (4) After the work referred to in the foregoing Paragraph is over, the place shall be cleaned up to the seabed, and this shall be certified by a diver's examination. A copy of the written statement concerning the diver's examination shall be sent to the Hydrographical Service of MD.

Article 66

The most urgent and important information concerning changes in navigational situation and the regime governing navigation shall be broadcast by radio, respectively in the navigational notices to mariners. This shall include the announcement of the following:

1. Newly found navigational hazards - banks, rocks, reefs, stones, sunk ships, underwater obstacles, mines, unexploded war supplies, freely floating objects etc., situated near routes for ship's navigation;
2. Banned zones, zones with mine hazards and under a special navigational regime;
3. Banned zones, in which practice with ships of the Navy will be conducted with the use of arms, explosions and other activities, dangerous for navigation;
4. Malfunction of separate means for guaranteeing safety of navigation and cases of placement, changing the place and taking away of floating devices guaranteeing safety of navigation;
5. Recommended routes, recommendations for navigation and anchorage in separate zones;

6. Laying of cables and pipelines in zones of intensive ship traffic;
7. Another information, directly concerning navigational safety.

Article 67

Navigational notices to mariners concerning temporarily prohibited or temporarily dangerous zones shall be made at least 3 - 5 days in advance of the time, when the area will be declared dangerous. The rest of the notices shall be broadcast immediately after obtaining the information.

Article 68

- (1) Navigational notices to mariners containing long term information shall be duly published in the bulletin "Notice to Mariners".
- (2) Printed notice to mariners shall be sent by the Hydrographical Service of MD to all ship owners and to all interested agencies and organizations.

Article 69

Projects for marking recommended routes for navigation of ships in channels and ports by floating glowing and not illuminated signs, as well as for coastal glowing and not illuminated navigational signs and ranges shall be developed by the authorities of MT and shall be coordinated with the Hydrographical Service of MD.

Article 70

- (1) The Hydrographical Service of MD shall represent the People's Republic of Bulgaria in specialized international organizations, as for example in the International Hydrographic Organization, in the International Association of Lighthouse Services etc., the activity of which is relating to guaranteeing safety of navigation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MT and other interested ministries and departments shall be informed about the decisions made.
- (2) Ministries and other departments, which have participated in the work of international organizations treating problems of navigational safety shall inform the Hydrographical Service of MD for the decisions made.

Article 71

The Hydrographical Service of MD shall have the exclusive right to elaborate, print and distribute sea maps, pilot maps, plans and appliances for navigation and other economic and scientific activities in the sea spaces of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Chapter Eleven

ORDER FOR CARRYING OUT UNDERWATER DIVING AND OTHER UNDERWATER ACTIVITY

Article 72

- (1) Training of divers by different departments and organizations at the Black Sea coast of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be conducted at ranges, established by the authorities of MD coordinated with the authorities of MI and MT.
- (2) Underwater diving outside the established ranges may be performed only after an authorization has been granted by the senior naval officers in Varna for the Varna region - from Cape Shabla to Cape Athanass, and in Bourgas for the Bourgas region - from Cape Athanass to the town of Michurin.

Article 73

- (1) Requests for underwater activity outside the reported ranges for the following week shall be submitted to the senior naval officers respectively in Varna and in Bourgas each Thursday till 9 a.m. In them the purpose, the persons in the diving group, the area, the time for work and the safety precautions shall be indicated. Requests for underwater activity with archaeological purposes, coordinated in advance with the Ministry of Culture, Science and Education, shall be sent in duplicate.
- (2) Decisions relating to the requests for underwater activities for the following week shall be announced until 12 o'clock each Friday.

- (3) Changes and adds in the activities planned in requests submitted during the week shall be made not later than 3 p.m. of the former day concerning the following day.
- (4) Senior naval officers in Varna and in Bourgas shall inform daily until 8 p.m. the respective Frontier immigration units for the permitted underwater activities for the following day.

Article 74

If necessary, the authorities of MD may, after a prior announcement, forbid underwater and sports activity for a specified period of time in specified zones of the Black Sea coast.

Article 75

- (1) Tourist complexes of the system of Bulgarian Tourist and Resort Association - Albena, Golden Sands, Drouzhba, Slanchev Briag and Dyuni shall equip ranges for light underwater activity with training purposes and as a hobby. In them Bulgarian and foreign nationals shall practice diving under the instruction of experts, strictly following safety precautions.
- (2) The places and dimensions of the ranges shall be coordinated with MI, MD and MT.

Article 76

Foreign nationals, who visit the People's Republic of Bulgaria and carry exhausts for underwater diving shall be obliged to register them at the entry Frontier check point.

Article 77

At performing underwater diving the following shall be prohibited, unless special authorization by the competent authorities has been granted:

1. Taking out from the sea-bed, shifting or taking pictures of objects of culture and natural landmarks;
2. Using devices and equipment for finding archaeological objects;
3. Underwater fishing.

Article 78

The control on the compliance with the provisions relating to the regime governing underwater diving shall be exercised by the authorities of MI and MD.

Article 79

A fine of 50 to 5 000 Leva referred to in Article 78 of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act shall be imposed on violators of the regime governing underwater activity, unless a heavier punishment is imposed on them.

CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

§ 1. The present Rules are issued on the basis of § 7 of the Concluding Provisions of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Sea Spaces Act.

§ 2. The enactment of the present Rules cancels:

1. The Order for Underwater Skin-Diving at the Black Sea Coast and in the River Danube (SG No. 52/1967).
2. The Rules for Taking Out and Protecting Underwater Monuments of Culture and Natural Sights of Aqueous Flora and Fauna (SG No. 53/1967);
3. The Regulation for Visits, Lying and Operation of Foreign Sports and Tourist Vessels in Ports, Territorial and Internal Waters of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (SG, No. 34/1973).