

Establishment of Procedure for the Protection of Sapropel and Sea Mud

*Regulation No. 21 of 05 April 1995 of the Minister of Environment*

Pursuant to subsection 41(4) of the Earth's Crust Act, I hereby establish:

- 1. to approve "Procedure for the Protection of Sapropel and Sea Mud" (attached).**

Minister of Environment Vootele Hansen

Approved by Regulation No. 21 of  
05 April 1995 of  
the Minister of Environment

Procedure for the Protection of Sapropel and Sea Mud

**I General provisions**

1. This Procedure has been established pursuant to subsection 41(4) of the Earth's Crust Act (RT I 1994, 86/87, 1488).
2. This Procedure establishes protection measures to ensure preservation of the supplies of sapropel and sea mud and the quality thereof.

**II Protection of non-curative sapropel and sea mud**

3. At the sea and Lake Peipsi, no additional protection measures shall be applied for the protection of sapropel and sea mud, except for the provisions of clause 6 of this Procedure.
4. On the shores of Lake Võrtsjärv a 20 metres wide protection zone, and on shores and banks of other inland water bodies - a 10 metres wide protection zone, shall be established and the restrictions for coastal protection zone provided in the Protection of Marine and Freshwater Coasts, Shores and Banks Act (RT I1995, 31, 382) shall be applied in these zones.
5. Additional restrictions shall not be imposed on the use of water bodies, general and special use of water, fishing, hydrotechnical facilities and objects of water traffic, with the exception of works causing alteration of the water level or the bottom of a water body; such works may be carried out on the approval from the Ministry of the Environment.
6. Sinking of inert (non-hazardous) waste and filling material in any water body and alteration of the bottom of a water body within the boundaries of mineral deposits or within 1000 m from the boundaries of such deposits is prohibited.

### **III Protection of curative mud**

7. For the purpose of this Procedure, the protection zone of deposits of curative mud on shores, banks and coasts of water bodies shall mean a construction prohibition zone as defined in the Protection of Marine and Freshwater Coasts, Shores and Banks Act, where the following additional restrictions shall be applied within the boundaries of the deposit, in the water area immediately surrounding the deposit and on the terrestrial area closer than 1000 m to the boundaries of the deposit:
  - 7.1. harbours and other facilities associated with water traffic may be constructed, reconstructed or restored in compliance with a general or detailed spatial plan upon the approval from the Ministry of the Environment and on the condition that the related traffic would not have any negative impact on beds of curative mud;
  2. establishment of fish-farms and amelioration systems is prohibited;
  - 7.3. establishment of beaches within 1000 m from the boundaries of deposits of curative mud is permitted upon the approval from the Ministry of the Environment.
8. The following additional restrictions shall be imposed on the use of water bodies:
  - 8.1. marking of a public waterway above a deposit of curative mud is permitted only on the approval from the Ministry of the Environment and on the condition that water traffic would not have any negative impact on the bed of curative mud;
  - 8.2. works causing alteration of the water level or the bottom of any water body, and sinking of non-hazardous waste in a deposit of curative mud or closer than 1000 m from the boundaries of such deposits is prohibited;

8.3. county governments have the right to impose restrictions on the traffic of water vehicles outside public waterways in order to prevent adverse impact of water vehicles on beds of curative mud;

8.4. organisation of sports events which involve water vehicles fitted with a motor, directly above deposits of curative mud, is prohibited.

9. Special use of water requiring construction of water intake facilities or wastewater recipients within 1000 m from the boundaries of deposits is prohibited.
10. Built recipients of amelioration systems the mouths of which are closer than 1000 m to a deposit must be provided with a sedimentation basin whose location and size shall be determined by a design approved by the Ministry of the Environment.
11. The Minister of Environment may establish special requirements for the water quality of natural watercourses whose mouths are closer than 1000 m to deposits.
  
12. The Minister of Environment may establish special requirements for fishing within, and closer than 1000 m to, the boundaries of deposits.
13. Hydrotechnical engineering facilities such as dams, bridges and bank enforcements may be constructed in compliance with a design approved by the Ministry of the Environment.
14. Taking of ice on a water body within the boundaries of deposits of curative mud is prohibited.
15. Extraction of other mineral resources and land substance within the boundaries of deposits of curative mud is prohibited.