

ACT OF 17 DECEMBER 1976 RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC ZONE OF NORWAY

§ 1.

An economic zone shall be established in the seas adjacent to the coast of the Kingdom of Norway. The King shall determine the date for the establishment of the economic zone and the waters to which it shall apply.

The outer limit of the economic zone shall be drawn at a distance of 200 nautical miles (1 nautical mile = 1852 metres) from the applicable baselines, but not beyond the median line in relation to other states.

The establishment of the economic zone shall not entail changes in the provisions regarding the territorial sea of Norway.

§ 2.

The establishment of the economic zone shall not affect the right of navigation through or overflight over the waters in question, or the right to lay submarine cables and pipelines.

The establishment of the economic zone shall not affect the contents of, or the field of application of, the Act of 21 June 1963 no 12 relating to the Exploration for and Exploitation of Submarine Natural Resources, or of regulations issued pursuant thereto.

§ 3.

Persons who are not Norwegian nationals, or placed on an equal footing with Norwegian nationals under the Act of 17 June 1966 no 19 relating to Norway's Fishery Limit and Prohibition against fishing etc by Foreign Nationals inside the Fishery Limit, may not engage in fishing or hunting within the Norwegian economic zone. The provisions of the said Act shall apply correspondingly in the economic zone.

The provisions in the first paragraph shall apply unless otherwise provided in regulations issued pursuant to §§ 4 or 6 of this Act.

§ 4.

The King may issue regulations on fishing and hunting in the economic zone, including regulations concerning:

- a. total allowable catch and maximum catch effort, with regard to overall fisheries as well as with regard to individual species and specific areas,
- b. access for fishermen from other states to fish allotted shares of the allowable catch, and the terms and conditions for such fishing,
- c. measures for assuring the rational and proper conduct of fishing activities, including provisions as to the number and size of vessels, use of gear, restrictions on gear, close periods, trawler-free zones and other area restrictions,
- d. other measures for the protection, conservation and reproduction of stocks of fish, shellfish and other living resources.

§ 5.

Prior to the implementation of the Norwegian economic zone, the King may, for areas referred to in § 1, lay down interim provisions for the protection of fish stocks, for the limitation of foreign fishing and for the rational and proper conduct of fishing activities.

§ 6.

For the area of the economic zone between 12 and 200 nautical miles from the baselines, the King may, when necessary by reason of agreements with other states or where special considerations so require, make exceptions to the provisions of §§ 3, 4 and 5 or from regulations issued pursuant to these provisions. For areas where the Act of 17 June 1966 no 19 relating to Norway's Fishery Limit and Prohibition against Fishing etc by Foreign Nationals inside the Fishery Limit has not been put into effect, such exceptions may also be applied to areas inside 12 nautical miles.

§ 7.

Subject to the rules of international law, the King may issue specific regulations in respect of the zone, including regulations concerning:

- a. the protection of the environment,
- b. scientific research,
- c. permanent or temporary artificial islands, installations, including artificial port facilities, and other structures,
- d. cables and pipelines,
- e. the exploration and exploitation of the economic zone for other economic purposes, including the production of energy.

§ 8.

Anyone wilfully or negligently violating the provisions of this Act or regulations issued pursuant thereto, or aiding and abetting therein, shall be punished by fines. Attempted violations shall be similarly punished.

In the event of any violation of the provisions of this Act, or of regulations issued pursuant thereto, the vessel which has been used in such violation, together with the equipment, catch and gear on board, may be seized, irrespective of ownership. In lieu of the property, its value may be confiscated, in whole or in part, from the offender or from the person on whose behalf he has acted, or from the owner himself. It may be decided that any mortgage or other title or lieu in the property seized shall be forfeited in whole or in part. The provisions of § 37 c of the Penal Code shall apply correspondingly.

For an interim period, or pursuant to agreement with another state, the King may limit, in whole or in part, the application of the first and second paragraphs.

§ 9.

This Act shall enter into force immediately.

ROYAL DECREE OF 17 DECEMBER 1976 RELATING TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE OF NORWAY

- 1) Pursuant to the Act of 17 December 1976 relating to the Economic Zone of Norway, the economic zone shall be established in the waters off the Norwegian mainland with effect from 1 January 1977. The outer limit for the economic zone shall be at a distance of 200 nautical miles (1 nautical mile = 1852 metres) from and parallel to the established baselines. Where the economic zone is adjacent to the area of jurisdiction of another state, the limit shall be drawn according to agreement.

- 5) The provisions laid down above do not affect the provisions in the Royal Decree of 31 January 1975 on the introduction of certain no-trawling zones, cf. the Act on Trawling-free Zones of 17 January 1975.