

**Royal Decree of 31 January 1969 Establishing Rules
relating to Scientific Research for Natural Resources
on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, etc.**

By virtue of section 3 of the Act of 21st June, 1963, relating to exploration for and exploitation of natural resources of the sea-bed and its subsoil, it is hereby provided:

Section 1

These regulations shall apply to scientific research for the natural resources of the sea-bed or its subsoil in Norwegian internal waters, in Norwegian territorial waters, and in the part of the Continental Shelf which is under Norwegian sovereignty, but not in areas subject to private property rights.

Section 2

The natural resources referred to in these rules consist of the mineral and other non-living resources of the sea-bed and its subsoil together with living organisms belonging to the sedentary species, that is to say, organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the sea-bed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the sea-bed or the subsoil.

Section 3

The Royal Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry) may grant licences for scientific research for natural resources in the sea-bed or in its subsoil or in limited areas of same. The licence shall be valid for a specific period of time and shall otherwise be in agreement with this Decree. The Ministry may give additional provisions to ensure the implementation of this Decree and may stipulate supplementary conditions in each separate licence.

Section 4

A scientific research licence may be granted to Norwegian or foreign scientific institutions, scientists and others having a need for conducting scientific researches.

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Section 6

A scientific research licence is usually granted for one particular investigation. The licence is free of duty unless otherwise decided in the particular case.

Section 7

Unless otherwise decided, the licence entitles the licensee to carry out the following operations:

- (a) Magnetic surveys;
- (b) Gravimetric surveys;

- (c) Seismic surveys;
- (d) Thermal conductivity measurements;
- (e) Radiometric measurements;
- (f) Collection of samples from the sea-bed or its subsoil, provided that drilling is not involved;

The Ministry may on application grant permission to use other exploration methods.

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Section 9

The Ministry may demand in the licence that the Ministry or anyone authorized by it, shall have the right to participate in, or be represented in the research.

Section 10

The scientific research licence does not give any exclusive right to undertake research in the areas covered by the licence. Nor does it give rights or priority to exploit possible natural resources.

The Ministry may at any time grant exploitation licences to others in the areas covered by the granted scientific research licence without incurring liability, to the licensees mentioned in Section 4.

Section 11

The holder of a scientific research licence shall, without delay, at the termination of the research, submit a report to the Ministry concerning the extent and the execution of the research. The Ministry may stipulate in the licence that reports shall also be submitted whilst the research is in progress.

The holder of a scientific research licence shall within a reasonable period of time submit to the Ministry a detailed report on the results of the research.

The Ministry may require additional information and material to supplement the reports mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2.

The Ministry may decide that the research results shall be published in a recognized scientific publication or in another manner acceptable to the Ministry. A reasonable number of copies of the relevant publication shall be submitted to the Ministry.

Section 12

The scientific research must be carried out in a safe manner and must not interfere in any unreasonable degree with other activities. Particular care must be taken to avoid unreasonable impediment or nuisance to fishing, shipping, navigation or aviation, damage or risk of damage to marine life, damage or risk of damage to natural resources on the sea-bed or in its subsoil, or to underwater cable or other underwater installations, pollution or risk of pollution to the sea-bed, its subsoil, or the sea or the air.

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