

United Nations Legislative Series

LAWS AND REGULATIONS
on the
REGIME OF THE HIGH SEAS

Volume I

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5. The owner of the sunken property shall forfeit his rights therein:

(a) Where a special time-limit has been fixed for notification of intention to salvage the sunken property, from the moment when he waives his right to raise the property or, if he makes no express waiver, from the moment of the expiry of such time-limit;

(b) In all other cases, on the expiry of the time-limit for the raising of the sunken property.

Note: In cases falling under the provisions of the Statute of the Commission for the Establishment of a Special Fund for financing Non-Ferrous Metallurgy (*Komsvyetzfond*), sunken vessels that have become Treasury property shall be disposed of by the Commission.

6. If it is necessary immediately to remove the sunken property because it directly endangers navigation, the port authorities may take the steps described in article 4 without setting the owner of the property the time-limits mentioned in article 2; but if the owner is known they shall inform him of the steps that have been taken, and if he is not known they shall insert a suitable notice in the *Izvestiye TsIK Soiuza SSR i VTsIK* ("News of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee").

7. Property salvaged by port authorities in accordance with article 6 or, if to keep it would be impossible or inadvisable, the proceeds of its sale shall be delivered to its owner if he presents himself not later than two years from the date on which the property sank. On the expiry of this time-limit the consequences mentioned in article 5 shall take place.

8. The authorities of the commercial port shall be reimbursed out of the value of the property for the expenses incurred by them in salvaging the property in accordance with articles 4 and 6.

9. If sunken property is salvaged accidentally, the salvager shall be obliged to surrender it to the port authorities concerned but shall be entitled to a reward equal to one-third of its value.

10. Except for article 9, the provisions of this Order shall apply to property sunken before this Order was issued.

Note: Owners of foreign vessels sunken during the ten years preceding the issue of this Order shall be entitled within a period of six months from the moment of its issue to notify their intention of salvaging the said vessels within one year of such notification, or their claims to sunken vessels salvaged before this Order was issued.

(d) ACT No. 431, CONCERNING THE USE OF RADIO EQUIPMENT ON FOREIGN VESSELS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE UNION, 24 JULY 1928. "SOBRANIE ZAKONOV I RASPORYAZHENII", 1928, NO. 48, P. 900. TRANSLATION BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR decrees:

I

1. Foreign military and non-military vessels in the marginal seas or inland waters of the USSR at a distance of ten miles from the shore may use their radio equipment only in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

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2. Non-military vessels within the transmission area of radio stations on the shore may not exchange radio telegrams except in the cases mentioned in article 7 of this Order.

3. Foreign non-military vessels in ports more than ten miles in a direct line from the nearest shore radio station, and foreign non-military vessels in the Sea of Azov, may use their radio equipment only by special written permission of the master of the commercial port, specifying a time-limit or issued on each separate occasion on which the vessel visits the port or inland waters of the USSR.

If the nearest shore radio station belonging to the People's Commissariat for Military and Naval Affairs or to some other public authority is situated not more than ten miles in a direct line from a commercial port, foreign vessels as aforesaid may receive permission from the master of such commercial port to exchange radio messages only by agreement with the local representatives of the competent authorities.

4. The local naval authorities shall be entitled to restrict the exchange of radio messages by foreign military vessels within the ten-mile limit in respect of time, the areas in which conversations may be conducted, and wave-length.

5. The master of the nearest commercial port shall be responsible for securing compliance with the provisions of article 2 of this Order.

He shall close and seal the radio equipment of foreign non-military vessels for the whole duration of the stay of such vessels in the port or within the ten-mile limit mentioned in article 1 of this Order.

6. Foreign vessels anchored in quarantine and requiring to communicate by radio with the local shore radio station may in emergency use their chief transmitter at minimum power or their lowest-powered set at the days and hours notified to them by the said station.

7. The restrictions on the use of the ship's radio equipment laid down in articles 2 to 6 of this Order shall not apply:

- (a) To vessels in danger or transmitting messages to avert an accident;
- (b) To vessels assisting other vessels in distress; and
- (c) In convoying vessels through ice.

On entering ports with shore radio stations, foreign vessels may on especially important occasions conclude a radio conversation commenced with the port, but only if they transfer to minimum power or to their lowest-powered set.

8. Whenever ship's radio equipment is used in accordance with this Order, foreign military and non-military vessels shall comply with the applicable regulations for international radio communication adopted by the USSR and also with the regulations relating to internal radio communications within the USSR. On their arrival in ports of the USSR, foreign vessels shall be informed by the competent local military and naval authorities or by the port authorities of unpublished regulations relating to internal radio communication.

9. Radio messages transmitted by foreign military and non-military vessels must be in clear and must not contain any symbol or code, except conventional signals under the official international rules for radio communication and the international code of signals.

10. The commander or captain of a foreign vessel shall be the person empowered to negotiate with the authorities on all questions arising out of this Order.

11. The provisions of this Order shall have effect only if the USSR is not at war and only in respect of vessels flying the flag of a non-belligerent State.

12. Persons who violate the regulations set forth in this Order shall be liable under the criminal law of the Union Republic concerned.

13. Instructions for giving effect to this Order shall be issued by the People's Commissariat of Communications by agreement with the People's Commissariat for Military and Naval Affairs, the Unified State Political Department (OGPU), the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs.

II

14. The regulations relating to the use of wireless telegraphy by foreign vessels on the coasts or in inland waters of the RSFSR and the Soviet Union Republics, confirmed on 16 January 1923 by the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR (*Sobranie Uzakoniemye RSFSR*, 1923, no. 6, p. 93), are hereby repealed.

(e) DECREE OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS, CONCERNING THE WATERS IN THE GULF OF FINLAND TO WHICH THE JURISDICTION OF THE USSR AND RSFSR AUTHORITIES EXTENDS, 3 AUGUST 1930. "SOBRANIE ZAKONOV I RAS-PORYAZHENII", 1930, NO. 44, C. 450, P. 822. TRANSLATION BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars hereby decree:

1. In the Gulf of Finland the jurisdiction of the authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic extends to the waters which lie between the coast of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and a line drawn as follows:

From the point at which the land frontier between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Finland emerges on the Gulf of Finland, following the parallel westwards until its intersection with a line running at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ nautical miles from the coast of Finland;

Thence, along the said line to the meridian of the Stirsudensky light-house in latitude $60^{\circ} 08' 9''$ following a straight line connecting that point with a point situated south of the Island of Seiskari at latitude $59^{\circ} 58' 8''$ and longitude $28^{\circ} 24' 5''$;

Thence following a straight line to a point situated in latitude $59^{\circ} 58' 0''$ and longitude $27^{\circ} 55' 0''$;

Thence, in a straight line to the Bigrund tower to the point at which the line so drawn intersects a line running four nautical miles from the coast of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Thence, southwards along a line running four nautical miles from the coast of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics up to its intersection with a line representing a continuation of the land frontier between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Estonia.