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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