

**Federal Act on the internal maritime waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone
of the Russian Federation(1)**

Adopted by the State Duma on 16 July 1998.

Approved by the Federation Council on 17 July 1998.

This Federal Act establishes the status and legal regime of the internal maritime waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Russian Federation, including the rights of the Russian Federation in its internal maritime waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone and the procedure for their implementation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the generally recognized principles and rules of international law, the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party and federal laws.

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1
Definition and limits of the internal maritime waters of the Russian Federation**

1. The internal maritime waters of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as “the internal maritime waters”) are the waters on the landward side of the baseline, from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the Russian Federation is measured.

The internal maritime waters form an integral part of the territory of the Russian Federation.

2. The internal maritime waters include the waters of:

- The ports of the Russian Federation limited by a line passing through the most seaward points of the hydraulic and other permanent port structures;

- The bays, inlets, firths and estuaries whose coasts belong completely to the Russian Federation, up to a straight line drawn from bank to bank at the low-water spot where one or several passageways are first formed from the direction of the sea, if the breadth of each of them does not exceed 24 nautical miles;

- The bays, inlets, firths, estuaries, seas and straits whose mouths are broader than 24 nautical miles, and which have historically belonged to the Russian Federation, a list of which is drawn up by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.

**Article 2
Definition and limits of the territorial sea of the Russian Federation**

1. The territorial sea of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as “the territorial sea”) is the sea belt adjacent to the land territory or internal maritime waters, whose breadth is 12 nautical miles measured from the baselines referred to in article 4 of this Federal Act.

A different breadth of the territorial sea may be established in accordance with article 3 of this Federal Act.

2. The definition of the territorial sea also applies to all the islands of the Russian Federation.

3. The outer limit of the territorial sea is the State border of the Russian Federation. The baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured are the inner limit of the territorial sea.

4. The sovereignty of the Russian Federation extends to the territorial sea, the airspace over it and also its seabed and subsoil, with recognition of the right of innocent passage of foreign ships through the territorial sea.

Article 3
Delimitation of the territorial sea

The delimitation of the territorial sea between the Russian Federation and States whose coasts are opposite or adjacent to the coast of the Russian Federation shall be carried out in accordance with the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

Article 4
Baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured

1. The following are the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured:
 - The low-water line along the coast as marked on charts officially published in the Russian Federation;
 - A straight baseline linking the farthest seaward points of islands, reefs and cliffs in localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity;
 - A straight line across the mouth of a river flowing directly into the sea, between the most seaward points on the low-water line of its banks;
 - A straight line which does not exceed 24 nautical miles and joins the points of the low-water marks of the natural mouth of a bay or a strait between islands or between an island and the mainland, whose coasts belong to the Russian Federation;
 - A system of straight baselines longer than 24 nautical miles joining the natural entrance points of a bay or a strait between islands or between an island and the mainland which have historically belonged to the Russian Federation.
2. A list of the geographical coordinates of the points of the adjacent zone of the Russian Federation, determining the position of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, shall be approved by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.
3. The limits of the territorial sea and the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall be shown on charts with the scale of 1:200,000-1:300,000, and in the absence of such charts, on charts with the scale of 1:100,000 or 1:500,000. Departures from these scales, owing to the specific characteristics of charting a given region, particular geographic conditions, the degree of exactitude of the base materials or other reasons, shall be permitted in individual cases.

CHAPTER II
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LEGAL REGIME OF THE SEAPORTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
THE INTERNAL MARITIME WATERS AND THE TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 5
Legal regime of the seaports of the Russian Federation

The legal regime for the commercial and fishing seaports as well as the specialized seaports of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as “the seaports”) shall be the same for all ports situated in the territory of the Russian Federation, regardless of the form of ownership and departmental affiliation.

1. The legal regime for the seaports, with account taken of climatic, hydrological and meteorological characteristics, shall be established under this Federal Act, other federal laws and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation applicable to seaports, as well as the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.
2. The seaports shall be declared open for calls by foreign ships on the basis of a decision by the Government of the Russian Federation.

A list of the seaports open for calls by foreign ships shall be published in *Notices to Mariners*.
3. The harbour master of a commercial seaport with whom the harbour master of a fishing seaport coordinates his activities if such

activities impinge upon the competence of the harbour master of the commercial seaport shall be the official who regulates calls by ships in the commercial seaport (departures from a commercial seaport) and is responsible for navigation safety in the port in question.

4. The harbour master of a fishing seaport with whom the harbour master of a commercial seaport coordinates his activities if such activities impinge upon the competence of the harbour master of the fishing seaport shall be the official who regulates calls by ships in the fishing seaport (departures from a fishing seaport) and is responsible for navigation safety in the port in question.

5. The functions and authority of the harbour master of a commercial seaport, the harbour master of a fishing seaport and the harbour master of a specialized seaport shall be established and regulated by this Federal Act, other federal laws and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation applicable to seaports.

6. The officials of federal executive bodies and the officials of federal executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation who are situated in a seaport shall coordinate their activities with the harbour master of the seaport only if the activities of such officials impinge upon the competence of the harbour master of the seaport.

7. All Russian and foreign ships must observe the legal regime of seaports.

Article 6 Calls by foreign ships in a maritime seaport

1. All foreign ships, except warships and other government ships used for non-commercial purposes, regardless of their intended use and form of ownership (hereinafter referred to as “foreign ships”), may call in the seaports opened for calls by foreign ships.

2. In respect of foreign ships of States in which there are special restrictions on calls by similar ships of the Russian Federation in their seaports, the Government of the Russian Federation may establish counter-restrictions.

3. The criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction of the Russian Federation shall apply to foreign ships and passengers and crew members on board such ships while the ships are in the seaports.

4. When entering the seaports, staying in them and when departing from them, foreign ships must observe:

- The laws of the Russian Federation on maintaining navigation safety, regulating the movement of ships, providing assistance and rescuing; the use of radio communications; the protection of navigational aids, equipment and installations, submarine cables and pipelines; the conduct of marine scientific research; the study, use and protection of aquatic objects, the subsoil, aquatic biological resources and other national resources of the territorial sea; environmental protection and ensuring environmental safety; and protecting historical and cultural monuments;

- Border, customs, tax (fiscal), sanitary, immigration, veterinary, phytosanitary, navigational and other regulations established under the laws of the Russian Federation and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation;

- Regulations established for the seaports;

- Regulations governing the entry into, stay in and departure from the seaports by foreign nationals and stateless persons which are in effect in the territory of the Russian Federation;

- Other regulations established under the laws of the Russian Federation, and international rules and standards laid down under the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

5. A foreign ship may leave a seaport only with the permission of the harbour master of the seaport as agreed with the officials of the specially empowered federal executive body for the border service and with officials of the customs agencies.

Article 7 Naval bases and areas where warships are based

1. The senior naval commander shall be the official of the naval base or area where warships are based, who regulates the calls by all ships and warships of the Russian Federation, foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes to the naval base or area where warships are based, as well as the departure from the naval base or area where warships are based, and who is responsible for navigation safety. The harbour master of a seaport, as well as the officials of the

federal executive bodies and the officials of the executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation situated in the naval base or area where warships are based, will act in agreement with the senior naval commander.

If warships of different federal executive bodies, including warships of the federal executive body for defence, are based simultaneously in a naval base or an area where warships are based, the senior naval commander of the federal executive body for defence shall be the official of the naval base or area where warships are based.

2. If a naval base or area where warships are based has a water area that is contiguous with a seaport, the procedure for entering and departing from the seaport for all ships of the Russian Federation, foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes shall be established by the senior naval commander in agreement with the harbour master of the seaport, an official of the border service and a customs agency official.

3. The regulations governing navigation and stays in naval bases and areas where warships are based shall be drawn up by the specially empowered federal executive body for defence, approved by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.

4. The list of naval bases in areas where warships are based shall be approved by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Article 8

Calls in seaports by foreign warships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes

1. Foreign warships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes (hereinafter referred to as “foreign warships”) may call in the seaports on the basis of prior consent requested through the diplomatic channels no later than 30 days prior to the planned call, unless another procedure is provided for under the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

2. The procedure for calls in the seaports by warships and other government ships as well as the procedure for their stay in the seaports shall be regulated by the rules established by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.

3. In respect of foreign warships and other government ships of States in which there are special restrictions on calls in their seaports by warships and other government ships of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation may establish counter-restrictions.

Article 9

Emergency calls by foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships in the territorial sea, internal maritime waters and seaports

1. An emergency call by a foreign ship, a foreign warship or other government ship in the territorial sea, internal maritime waters and seaports is a call carried out owing to the following emergency circumstances:

- An accident, natural disaster or severe storm which endangers the safety of a foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship;
- Drifting ice or ice conditions which threaten the safety of the foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship;
- The towing of a damaged foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship;
- The delivery of persons who have been rescued;
- The need to provide urgent medical assistance to crew members or passengers, and also other emergency circumstances.

2. All foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships shall, without any discrimination, have, in accordance with the rules of international law, the right of an emergency call in the territorial sea, internal maritime waters and seaports.

3. In the event of an emergency call in the territorial sea, the internal maritime waters or a seaport, the master of a foreign ship and the commander of a foreign warship or other government ship must immediately notify the harbour master of the nearest seaport about this and must thereafter act in accordance with his instructions or those of the commander of a warship, the master of a seagoing or river ship or the commander of an aircraft of the Russian Federation which has come in order to provide assistance or clarify the circumstances of the emergency call.

4. The following information must be contained in the notification of an emergency call:
 - The name of the foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship;
 - The flag State;
 - The first name and last name of the master of the foreign ship or the commander of the foreign warship or other government ship;
 - Type of engine system (nuclear or conventional);
 - Reason for the emergency call;
 - Presence on board of nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances or materials;
 - The need for and type of assistance;
 - The assumed time of the emergency call and other information.
5. An official of the federal executive body for the border service shall, independently or with the participation of specialists from the seaport, naval base or area where warships are based sent by the official referred to in articles 5 and 7 of this Federal Act, evaluate the reasons for the emergency call and the technical state (where necessary) of the foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship (without violating the immunity of the foreign warship or other government ship).
6. After the circumstances that caused the emergency call have been rectified, the foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship must leave the seaport, internal maritime waters and the territorial sea after receiving permission to depart from the official referred to in articles 5 and 7 of this Federal Act, with the agreement of the official of the federal executive body for the border service and a customs agency official.
7. Exercise of the right of an emergency call may be refused in respect of damaged foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships with nuclear engines or foreign ships transporting nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances or materials which may cause harm to the Russian Federation, its population, natural resources and environment that is considerably greater than that threatening the damaged foreign ship, foreign warship or other government ship.
8. The decision to refuse exercise of the right of an emergency call shall be taken by the official of the federal executive body for the border service independently or in agreement with an official of the seaport, naval base or area where warships are based.

Article 10
Meaning of passage through the territorial sea

1. Passage through the territorial sea means navigation through the territorial sea for the purpose of:
 - Traversing the territorial sea without entering internal maritime waters or calling at a roadstead or port facility outside internal maritime waters;
 - Proceeding to or from internal maritime waters or a call at such roadstead or port facility.
2. Passage through the territorial sea shall be continuous and expeditious. However, it may include stopping and anchoring, but only insofar as the same are incidental to ordinary navigation or are rendered necessary by force majeure or distress or for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

Article 11
Innocent passage through the territorial sea

1. Passage through the territorial sea is innocent as long as it is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the Russian Federation.
2. Passage of a foreign ship, foreign warship, or other government ship through the territorial sea shall be considered to be prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the Russian Federation if in the territorial sea it engages in any of the following

activities:

- Any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or independence of the Russian Federation, or in any other manner in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;
- Any exercises or practice with weapons of any kind;
- Any act aimed at collecting information to the prejudice of the defence or security of the Russian Federation;
- Any act of propaganda aimed at affecting the defence or security of the Russian Federation;
- The launching, landing or taking on board of any aircraft;
- The launching, landing or taking on board of any military device;
- The loading or unloading of any commodity, currency or person contrary to the border, customs, tax (fiscal), sanitary, immigration, veterinary, phytosanitary, navigation and other regulations established under the laws of the Russian Federation and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation;
- Any act of wilful and serious pollution of the environment contrary to the requirements of the laws of the Russian Federation and the rules of international law;
- Fishing activities;
- The carrying out of research or hydrographic survey activities;
- Any act aimed at interfering with any systems of communication or any other facilities or installations of the Russian Federation;
- Any other activity not having a direct bearing on passage through the territorial sea, except as otherwise provided under the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

Article 12

Right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships

1. Foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea in accordance with this Federal Act, the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.
2. In the interest of ensuring the security of the Russian Federation and for the purposes of conducting training with weapons of any type, the specially empowered federal executive body for defence or federal executive body for the border service may suspend, in specific areas of the territorial sea, the exercise of the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea for foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships. Such a suspension shall enter into force after it has been announced in advance in *Notices to Mariners*.

Article 13

Regulations relating to innocent passage through the territorial sea of foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships

1. Foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships, exercising the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea, shall observe the legislation of the Russian Federation and regulations relating to innocent passage through the territorial sea with respect to:
 - The safety of navigation and the regulation of maritime traffic, including the use of sea lanes and traffic separation schemes;
 - The protection of navigational aids and facilities and other facilities or installations;
 - The protection of submarine cables and pipelines;
 - The conservation of the living resources of the sea;

- The prevention of infringement of the fisheries laws and regulations of the Russian Federation;
- The preservation of the environment and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution thereof;
- Marine scientific research and hydrographic surveys;
- The prevention of infringement of the border, customs, tax (fiscal), sanitary, immigration, veterinary, phytosanitary, navigation and other regulations set forth under the laws of the Russian Federation and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation.

Such laws and other normative legal acts shall not apply to the design, construction, manning or equipment of foreign ships unless they are giving effect to generally accepted international rules or standards.

2. No more than three foreign warships or other government ships of the same foreign State may pass at the same time through the territorial sea in order to call in a seaport of the Russian Federation, unless otherwise provided under an international treaty to which the Russian Federation is a party or a special decision of the Government of the Russian Federation on the occasion of a holiday or important date.
3. During passage through the territorial sea, foreign submarines and other underwater vehicles are required to navigate on the surface and to show their flag.
4. Foreign nuclear-powered ships, warships and other government ships and ships carrying nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances or materials shall, during passage through the territorial sea, carry the required documents, observe special precautionary measures established for such ships by international agreements to which the Russian Federation is a party and follow the sea lanes and traffic separation schemes established for them in the territorial sea.
5. The sea lanes and traffic separation schemes in the territorial sea shall be elaborated by the specially empowered federal executive body for defence, approved by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.
6. No charge may be levied upon foreign ships, foreign warships or other government ships by reason only of their passage through the territorial sea.

Charges shall be levied upon foreign ships, foreign warships or other State ships passing through the territorial sea as payment only for specific services rendered to them.

These charges shall be levied without discrimination.

Article 14 Navigation along the waterways of the Northern Sea Route

Navigation on the waterways of the Northern Sea Route, the historical national unified transport line of communication of the Russian Federation in the Arctic, including the Vilkitsky, Shokalsky, Dmitry Laptev and Sannikov straits, shall be carried out in accordance with this Federal Act, other federal laws and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party and the regulations on navigation on the watercourses of the Northern Sea Route approved by the Government of the Russian Federation and published in *Notices to Mariners*.

Article 15 Areas in which navigation is prohibited and which are temporarily dangerous for navigation

1. In order to ensure the safety of navigation, safeguard the State interests of the Russian Federation and protect the environment in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, areas in which navigation is prohibited and which are temporarily dangerous for navigation may be established, in which navigation, anchoring, hunting for sea mammals, bottom fishing, underwater or dredging work, the taking of bottom samples, underwater explosions, navigating with a corroded anchor chain, the flying, hovering and landing (splashdown) of aircraft and other activities are completely prohibited or temporarily restricted.
2. In areas in which navigation is prohibited, the navigation of all ships, warships, other government ships and all other floating facilities is prohibited. Decisions to establish areas in which navigation is prohibited and to open them for navigation, and regulations

for such areas shall be taken by the Government of the Russian Federation upon a submission by the federal executive body concerned. These decisions shall enter into force after they have been announced in advance in *Notices to Mariners*.

3. Areas which are temporarily dangerous for navigation shall be established for a specific period of time. Decisions to establish areas which are temporarily dangerous for navigation and the regulations for such areas shall be taken by the specially empowered federal executive body for defence. These decisions shall enter into force after they have been announced in advance in *Notices to Mariners*.

4. The boundaries of the areas in which navigation is prohibited shall be indicated on the navigation charts issued by the specially empowered federal executive body for defence.

Changes relating to such areas shall be published in advance in *Notices to Mariners* and shall be announced by radio.

5. All ships and warships of the Russian Federation, foreign ships, foreign warships and other government ships as well as other floating facilities are required to carry out the regulations established for areas in which navigation is prohibited and which are temporarily dangerous for navigation. Pleading ignorance of the regulations or the boundaries of the areas in which navigation is prohibited or which are temporarily dangerous for navigation may not serve as a basis for entering such areas or avoiding responsibility.

Article 16

Search and rescue and ship-raising operations, the creation of artificial structures and the laying of submarine cables and pipelines in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. Search and rescue and ship-raising operations in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be carried out by the salvage ships and facilities of the Russian Federation.

2. Salvage ships and facilities of foreign States shall be permitted to enter the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea and participate in search and rescue and ship-raising operations for the purpose of searching for and rescuing persons, salvaging and towing damaged ships, and raising sunken ships and cargoes, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

3. The provisions of this article shall not apply to the granting of assistance to persons, ships or aircraft passing through the territorial sea in accordance with article 10, paragraph 2, of this Federal Act.

4. The creation, exploitation and use of artificial islands, structures and installations for any purpose and the laying of submarine cables and pipelines for any purpose in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be carried out in the manner determined by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Article 17

Criminal jurisdiction of the Russian Federation on board a foreign ship

1. The criminal jurisdiction of the Russian Federation shall not be exercised on board a foreign ship passing through the territorial sea to arrest any person or to conduct any investigation in connection with any crime committed on board the ship during its passage save only in the following cases:

- If the consequences of the crime extend to the Russian Federation;

- If the crime is of a kind to disturb the peace of the Russian Federation or the good order of the territorial sea;

- If the assistance of officials of federal executive bodies or officials of executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation has been requested by the master of a foreign ship, a diplomatic agent or consular officer of the flag State; or

- If such measures are necessary for the suppression of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances or to suppress other criminal offences of an international nature provided for under the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall not affect the right of the Russian Federation to take any steps in accordance with its laws for the purpose of an arrest or investigation on board a foreign ship passing through the territorial sea after leaving

internal maritime waters.

3. In the cases provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the Russian Federation shall, if the master of a foreign ship so requests, notify a diplomatic agent or consular officer of the flag State before taking any steps, and shall facilitate contact between such agent or officer and the ship's crew. In cases of emergency, this notification may be communicated while the measures are being taken.

4. Except in cases relating to the protection and maintenance of the marine environment and violations of laws and regulations established for the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation shall not take any steps on board a foreign ship passing through the territorial sea to arrest any person or to conduct any investigation in connection with any crime committed before the ship entered the territorial sea, if the ship, proceeding from a foreign port, is only passing through the territorial sea without entering internal maritime waters.

Article 18

Civil jurisdiction of the Russian Federation in relation to foreign ships

1. Officials of federal executive bodies shall not stop or divert a foreign ship passing through the territorial sea for the purpose of exercising the civil jurisdiction of the Russian Federation in relation to a person on board the foreign ship.

2. Officials of federal executive bodies shall not levy execution against or arrest the ship referred to in paragraph 1 of this article for the purpose of any civil proceedings, save only in respect of obligations or liabilities assumed or incurred by the ship itself in the course or for the purpose of its voyage through the territorial sea.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall be without prejudice to the rights of officials of federal executive bodies, in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation, to levy execution against or to arrest, for the purpose of any civil proceedings, a foreign ship lying in the territorial sea, or passing through the territorial sea after leaving internal maritime waters.

Article 19

Actions by specially empowered federal executive bodies with regard to foreign warships which violate the laws of the Russian Federation in the territorial sea, internal maritime waters or seaports

1. If any foreign warship does not comply with the laws of the Russian Federation concerning passage through the territorial sea or presence in the internal maritime waters and seaports and disregards any request for compliance therewith which is made to it, officials of the specially empowered federal executive body for the border service, federal executive body for defence, federal executive body for internal affairs and federal executive body for environmental protection may require the foreign warship to leave the territorial sea, internal maritime waters or seaport immediately.

2. All disputes between the officials of the federal executive bodies referred to in paragraph 1 of this article and the commander of a foreign warship in peacetime which are not resolved on the spot shall be resolved exclusively through the diplomatic channel.

3. If a foreign warship uses weapons against the Russian Federation, its ships, vessels, aircraft or citizens of the Russian Federation, countermeasures to repulse the attack shall be carried out in accordance with the Russian Federation Act concerning the State border of the Russian Federation and the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 20

The study, exploration, exploitation (extraction) and protection of marine biological resources and other natural resources and the environment of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. The study, exploration, exploitation (extraction) and protection of marine biological resources and other natural resources and the environment of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea as well as the maintenance of environmental safety, activities in specially protected natural areas and the protection of historical and cultural monuments shall be carried out in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

2. Foreign citizens and stateless persons, foreign juridical persons and associations of juridical persons of foreign States without the status of juridical persons and international organizations may study, explore and exploit (extract) marine biological resources and other natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea and also conduct other activities in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, including from aircraft, in the manner provided for under this Federal Act, other federal laws and the international treaties of the Russian Federation which are subject to ratification.

3. The manner and forms of exercising the powers established under the laws of the Russian Federation of executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation whose territory adjoins the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea with regard to the questions of the study, exploration, exploitation (extraction) and protection of marine biological resources and other natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, environmental protection and ensuring environmental safety, activities in specially protected natural areas and also protection of historical, cultural and natural monuments shall be determined by agreement between the federal executive bodies and the corresponding executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation whose territory adjoins the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea.
4. Marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter IV of this Federal Act.

Article 21

Basic principles for economic relations in using the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. The following are the basic principles for economic relations in using the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea:
 - Payment for use;
 - Liability for violating the conditions of economic activities;
 - Compensation for damage caused to the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, their natural resources, the environment and historical and cultural monuments;
 - Financial security for measures related to the restoration and protection of the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, the environment and the protection of historical and cultural monuments.
2. Payment for the use of the living resources and fees for use of the non-living resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, the amounts of payment and fees, the procedure for their collection and transmission to the federal budget and the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation whose territory adjoins the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be determined by the laws of the Russian Federation.

The procedure for calculating and applying standard amounts of payment for the use of living resources and the procedure for calculating and applying the standard amounts of fees for the use of non-living resources shall be determined by the Government of the Russian Federation.

In addition, users shall pay other taxes and charges provided for under the laws of the Russian Federation in the field of taxation.

3. In places where indigenous small peoples, ethnic communities and other inhabitants of the North and the Far East of the Russian Federation whose way of life, livelihood and economy have traditionally been based on the commercial exploitation of living resources live and carry out traditional economic activities, the manner and means of using the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea which ensure the maintenance and support of the necessary conditions for life shall be determined and established in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER III CONTIGUOUS ZONE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Article 22

Definition, limits and delimitation of the contiguous zone of the Russian Federation

1. The contiguous zone of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as “the contiguous zone”) is the belt of sea which is situated beyond the limits of the territorial sea, is contiguous to it, and the outer limit of which is at a distance of 24 nautical miles, measured from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

2. The delimitation of the contiguous zone between the Russian Federation and States whose coasts are opposite the coast of the Russian Federation or are adjacent to the coast of the Russian Federation shall be effected in accordance with the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

Article 23

Rights of the Russian Federation in the contiguous zone

1. In the contiguous zone the Russian Federation shall exercise the control necessary to:

- Prevent infringements of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary regulations established by the laws of the Russian Federation and by other regulatory legal instruments of the Russian Federation which are in effect in the territory of the Russian Federation, including the territorial sea;

- Punish infringement of those laws and regulations committed in the territory of the Russian Federation, including the territorial sea.

2. In the contiguous zone, the Russian Federation shall take the necessary measures, including hot pursuit, halting, inspection and arrest of all offending foreign ships (with the exception of warships and other State vessels used for non-commercial purposes), to prevent the infringements referred to in paragraph 1 of this article and to arrest offenders, in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation and the rules of international law.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall not affect the rights of the Russian Federation established by the federal laws concerning the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER IV

MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE INTERNAL MARITIME WATERS AND IN THE TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 24

Definition of marine scientific research

For purposes of this Federal Act, marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea (hereinafter referred to as “marine scientific research”) means basic or applied research and experimental work carried out for the purpose of such research with the aim of obtaining knowledge about all aspects of natural processes occurring on the seabed and the subsoil thereof, in the water column and in the atmosphere.

This definition shall not apply to the study of marine biological resources and other natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea referred to in article 20 of this Federal Act.

Article 25

Submission and contents of applications to conduct marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea

1. Marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea may be conducted by federal executive bodies, executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation, nationals of the Russian Federation and Russian juridical persons (hereinafter, for the purposes of this chapter, referred to as “Russian applicants”) in accordance with the annual plan for conducting marine scientific research drawn up by the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology.

2. Russian applicants interested in conducting marine scientific research shall submit an application to the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology at least six months prior to the beginning of the year in which the marine scientific research is to be conducted.

3. Foreign nationals and stateless persons, foreign juridical persons and international organizations of which the Russian Federation is not a member may conduct marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea, including research from aircraft and air probes, under the procedure envisaged in this Federal Act, other federal laws or international treaties of

the Russian Federation which are subject to ratification.

4. Foreign nationals and stateless persons, foreign juridical persons empowered by a State party to an international treaty with the Russian Federation, international organizations of which the Russian Federation is a member or with which the Russian Federation has concluded an international treaty (hereinafter, for the purposes of this chapter, referred to as “foreign applicants”) interested in conducting marine scientific research in the internal maritime waters or in the territorial sea shall submit an application through the diplomatic channel to the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology at least six months prior to the proposed starting date for conducting marine scientific research in order to receive a permit to conduct such research.
5. An application to conduct marine scientific research (for foreign applicants - in Russian and in the language of the applicant) must contain:
 - Information about the nature and objectives of the marine scientific research;
 - Information about the programme of marine scientific research, the methods and means to be used in conducting the marine scientific research, including information on the names, tonnage, types and classes of vessels, manned and unmanned underwater craft and aircraft, and also a description of the scientific equipment;
 - The geographical coordinates of the areas in which the marine scientific research is to be conducted, the routes to be taken to and from these areas, and the time and places of shore landings;
 - The expected dates of initial arrival and final departure from the area in which the marine scientific research is to be conducted;
 - In the case of conducting marine scientific research by means of a shore-based expedition, the date of its arrival and departure;
 - The name of the institution which will direct the marine scientific research;
 - Information about the person in charge of conducting the marine scientific research (the leader of the expedition);
 - Information about the existence of licences for carrying out the types of activity envisaged in the programme for marine scientific research;
 - Information about the possible effect of the planned marine scientific research on the marine environment, natural resources, and the operations of shoreline industrial and transport facilities, and on ensuring the safety of maritime navigation and aircraft flights.
6. In their applications, foreign applicants shall also provide information about all the forms and the extent of the planned participation in the marine scientific research of nationals of the Russian Federation and Russian juridical persons, and shall also indicate the international treaty of the Russian Federation within the framework of which they plan to conduct marine scientific research.
7. In their applications, Russian applicants shall also provide information about all the forms and the extent of the planned participation in the marine scientific research of foreign nationals, stateless persons, foreign juridical persons and international organizations.
8. Applicants may be requested to provide supplementary information about the marine scientific research for the conduct of which a permit is being requested. In such cases, the time limit for the consideration of the application shall be calculated from the date on which the applicant provides the supplementary information.
9. In the event that the area of marine scientific research is even partially located within the internal maritime waters or the territorial sea, the marine scientific research shall be conducted in accordance with this Federal Act throughout the area of marine scientific research, including the part which is beyond the limits of the territorial sea.

Article 26

Procedure for the consideration of applications

1. The specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology shall:

- No later than 10 days following the date of receipt of an application, notify the applicant of the receipt of the application;
 - No later than four months following the date of receipt of the application, send the applicant a permit to conduct marine scientific research or notify the applicant that:
 - (a) A permit to conduct the planned marine scientific research has been denied;
 - (b) The information provided in the application does not conform with the nature, goals and methods for conducting marine scientific research;
 - (c) Supplementary information needs to be provided on the planned marine scientific research in accordance with article 25 of this Federal Act.
2. A permit to conduct marine scientific research, or the notification envisaged in paragraph 1 of this article, shall be sent to foreign applicants through the specially empowered federal executive body for foreign affairs.
3. Permits to conduct marine scientific research shall be issued by the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology in coordination with the specially empowered federal executive body for natural resources, federal executive body for fisheries, federal executive body for environmental protection, federal executive body for defence, federal executive body on the border service, federal executive body for customs matters and federal executive body for security, and in cases where part of the marine scientific research is to be carried out on shore or with the use of shore infrastructure, the relevant executive bodies of the subject of the Russian Federation whose territory adjoins the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea where it is proposed that the marine scientific research will be conducted.

Article 27

Grounds for denying a permit to conduct marine scientific research

- A permit to conduct marine scientific research may be denied if the marine scientific research:
- Poses or may pose a threat to the security of the Russian Federation;
 - Is designed for the investigation, reproduction or acclimatization of aquatic biological resources, or the prospecting, exploration or exploitation (extraction) of aquatic biological resources and other natural resources;
 - Is incompatible with the requirements for the protection of the environment and natural resources;
 - Involves drilling on the seabed of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, the use of explosives or pneumatic devices, or the introduction of harmful substances into the marine environment;
 - Involves the construction, operation or use of artificial islands, platforms, installations and structures which prevent or hinder navigation;
 - Involves the use of existing artificial islands, platforms, installations and structures which were not referred to in the application;
 - Impedes activities carried out by the Russian Federation in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea.

Permits to conduct marine scientific research may be denied in cases where the applicant has outstanding obligations to the Russian Federation from prior marine scientific research.

Article 28

Obligations of applicants conducting marine scientific research

1. Russian and foreign applicants who have received permits to conduct marine scientific research are required:
- To comply with this Federal Act, other federal laws and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party;
 - To provide the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology with a preliminary report, as soon as practicable, on the marine scientific research which has been conducted, and with a final report, after the completion of the research,

but no later than three months from the date of completion of the marine scientific research. These materials shall be provided by foreign applicants in Russian and in the language of the applicant;

- To submit copies of the data from the meteorological, hydrological, hydrochemical and hydrobiological observations envisaged in the approved programme of marine scientific research, as soon as possible, to the State databanks of the Russian Federation, the addresses of which are shown in the permit to conduct marine scientific research;

- To refrain from interfering with the activities undertaken by the Russian Federation in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea;

- To remove installations, structures and facilities after the completion of marine scientific research, in the absence of any other agreement.

2. Russian applicants — if foreign nationals, foreign juridical persons or stateless persons are taking part in their marine scientific research — and also foreign applicants must ensure the participation in the marine scientific research of representatives of the Russian Federation specially empowered by the federal executive body for science and technology (their presence, accommodation and full protection on board research ships, aircraft, installations and structures and at the locations of shore expeditions) on an equal footing with their own officers (leaders), and also to ensure access by those Russian representatives to all data and samples derived from research and to furnish them with data which may be copied and samples which may be divided without detriment to their scientific value.

3. Russian and foreign ships, aircraft, installations and structures, and also shore-based expeditions conducting marine scientific research, must:

- Maintain regular contact with the coastal services of the Russian Federation;

- Where appropriate equipment is available on the research ships, aircraft, installations and structures, transmit timely data from meteorological, hydrological and aerological observations in basic international synoptic time to the nearest radiometric centre of the Russian Federation, if such observations are envisaged in the permit to conduct marine scientific research, in accordance with the standard procedures of the World Meteorological Organization, and also to report cases of pollution of the marine environment by oil, toxic liquids, refuse and waste water.

Article 29

Transmission and publication of the results of marine scientific research

1. All data obtained as a result of marine scientific research, after processing and analysis, including final results and conclusions after the completion of the research, must be transmitted to the State databanks of the Russian Federation, the addresses of which are indicated in the permit to conduct marine scientific research.

2. All samples obtained as a result of marine scientific research and not previously transmitted to a representative of the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology because they could not be divided without detriment to their scientific value, including the final results and conclusions after the completion of the research, must be transmitted to the State databanks of the Russian Federation, the addresses of which are indicated in the permit to conduct marine scientific research, after their processing and analysis.

3. The materials indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall be transmitted by foreign applicants in Russian and in the language of the applicant.

4. Russian and foreign applicants who have conducted marine scientific research and fulfilled the obligations to the Russian Federation referred to in this article may provide access to the results of the research to third parties upon request through the diplomatic channel, with the consent of the specially empowered federal executive body on science and technology.

Article 30

Changes in programmes of marine scientific research

A programme of marine scientific research may be changed by Russian or foreign applicants only in exceptional cases and in agreement with the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology after receiving written authorization from it for such a change, accorded in agreement with the other specially empowered federal executive bodies and executive bodies of

subjects of the Russian Federation referred to in article 26, paragraph 3, of this Federal Act.

Article 31
Suspension or termination of marine scientific research

1. Marine scientific research conducted in violation of this Federal Act, other federal laws or international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party may be suspended or terminated by a decision of the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology, other specially empowered federal executive bodies or the executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation, as indicated in article 26, paragraph 3, of this Federal Act, which have found these violations and are acting within the limits of their competence.
2. The resumption of suspended marine scientific research shall be permitted after the violations have been eliminated within the prescribed time limits and guarantees have been provided to the specially empowered federal executive body or the executive body of a subject of the Russian Federation, as indicated in article 26, paragraph 3, of this Federal Act, which have found these violations and ordered the suspension of the marine scientific research, and also to the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology, that in future such violations will not be permitted.
3. Marine scientific research shall be subject to immediate termination in the event that:
 - It is conducted without a permit from the specially empowered federal executive body for science and technology;
 - There is a discrepancy in the information provided in the application in accordance with article 25 of this Federal Act which has the effect of changing the plan for marine scientific research;
 - Russian or foreign applicants fail to comply with their obligations to the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER V
PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE INTERNAL MARITIME WATERS AND THE TERRITORIAL SEA

Article 32
Protection and preservation of the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

The protection and preservation of the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be ensured in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party by the specially empowered federal executive bodies within the limits of their competence and also by the relevant executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 33
Regulation of the quality of the marine environment of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. The quality of the marine environment of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be regulated for the purpose of establishing the maximum permissible norms for effects on the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, ensuring and guaranteeing the environmental safety of the population, the preservation of the genetic pool and the protection and preservation of the marine environment and natural resources, and also ensuring the rational use and reproduction of the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea.
2. The maintenance of the marine environment of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea in a condition which meets environmental requirements shall be ensured through the establishment and observance of regulations for the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful substances and regulations for the maximum permissible harmful effects on the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, and also other requirements and measures established under the laws of the Russian Federation on environmental protection and the water legislation of the Russian Federation.
3. The procedure for the formulation and approval of regulations for the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful substances and the regulations for the maximum permissible harmful effects on the marine environment and the natural resources of

the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

4. The regulations for the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful substances and the regulations for the maximum permissible harmful effects on the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea shall be published in *Notices to Mariners*.

Article 34

State environmental assessment of economic and other activities in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. A State environmental assessment of economic and other activities in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea (hereinafter referred to as “the State environmental assessment”):

- Is a required measure for the protection of the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea;

- Shall be organized and carried out by the specially empowered federal executive body for environmental protection, with the participation of the relevant executive body of the subject of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

2. All types of economic and other activities shall be subject to State environmental assessment, regardless of their estimated cost, departmental affiliation and forms of ownership.

All types of economic and other activities in internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea may be carried out only if there is a favourable result in the State environmental assessment conducted at the expense of the user of the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea.

3. A State environmental assessment must be carried out for draft State programmes and plans, and for pre-planning, pre-project and project documentation pertaining to the study, exploration and exploitation (commercial use) of the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures, and the laying of cables and pipelines.

Article 35

State environmental control in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea

1. State environmental control in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea (hereinafter referred to as “State environmental control”) comprises a system of measures for the prevention, detection and elimination of violations of the laws of the Russian Federation or the applicable international rules and standards for the protection of the marine environment and the natural resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea.

2. State environmental control shall be exercised by the specially empowered federal executive body for environmental protection, with the participation of other specially empowered federal executive bodies and the corresponding executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

Article 36

State environmental monitoring of the condition of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. State environmental monitoring of the condition of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea (hereinafter referred to as “State monitoring”), which is an integral part of the Russian Federation’s unified State system of environmental monitoring, comprises a system of regular observations of the condition of the marine environment and seabed sediments according to physical, chemical, hydrobiological and microbiological indicators, and also the evaluation and prognosis of changes under the influence of natural and man-made factors.

2. State monitoring shall be carried out by the specially empowered federal executive body for environmental protection with the participation of the specially empowered federal executive body for natural resources, the federal executive body for fisheries and the relevant executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 37
Dumping of wastes and other matter and discharge of harmful substances
in the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea

1. For the purposes of this Federal Act:

- The dumping of wastes and other matter (hereinafter referred to as “dumping”) means any deliberate disposal of wastes or other matter from ships, aircraft, artificial islands, installations and structures, and also any deliberate disposal of ships and other floating craft, aircraft, artificial islands, installations and structures. Dumping does not include the disposal of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of ships, aircraft, artificial islands, installations and structures which do not exceed the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful substances and the regulations for the maximum permissible harmful effects on the marine environment and natural resources, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to ships, aircraft, installations and structures operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such ships, aircraft, artificial islands, installations and structures; or the placement of such wastes or other matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this Federal Act and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party;

- A harmful substance is a substance which, upon entering the marine environment, is capable of creating a hazard to human health, causing damage to living resources and marine flora and fauna, reducing amenities or hindering other types of legitimate use of the sea, as well as a substance which is subject to monitoring in accordance with the international treaties of the Russian Federation;

- The discharge of harmful substances or waste water containing such substances (hereinafter referred to as “discharge of harmful substances”) means any discharge from ships and other floating craft (hereinafter referred to as “ships”), aircraft, artificial islands, installations and structures, for whatever reason, including any leak, disposal, spillage, seepage, pumping, emission or drainage. The discharge of harmful substances does not include the release of harmful substances occurring as a direct result of exploration, exploitation and related processes for the processing at sea of the mineral resources of the internal maritime waters and the territorial sea, or the discharge of harmful substances in order to conduct legitimate marine scientific research to combat or monitor pollution.

2. The dumping of wastes and other matter, and also the discharge of harmful substances in the internal maritime waters and in the territorial sea, are prohibited.

Article 38
Maritime casualties

If a collision of vessels, stranding or other maritime casualty which has occurred in the internal maritime waters or in the territorial sea, or actions taken to eliminate the consequences of such casualties, have resulted or may result in major harmful consequences, the Government of the Russian Federation, in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party, shall have the right to take the necessary measures, including measures in relation to the damaged ship and the guilty party in the casualty, proportionate to the actual or threatened damage, in order to protect the coastline of the Russian Federation or related interests (including fishing) from pollution or the threat of pollution.

CHAPTER VI
ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FEDERAL LAW

Article 39
Protection of the internal maritime waters, the territorial sea and their natural resources

1. The protection of the internal maritime waters, the territorial sea and their natural resources shall be ensured in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Act and other federal laws.

2. The protection of the internal maritime waters, the territorial sea and their natural resources shall be ensured by the specially empowered federal executive body on the border service in conjunction with the specially empowered federal executive body for defence, the federal executive body for environmental protection, the federal executive body for natural resources and other specially

empowered federal executive bodies within the limits of their competence, and also with the executive bodies concerned of subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 40
Liability for violation of this Federal Law

1. Officials of federal executive bodies, executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies who are responsible for violating this Federal Act shall be prosecuted in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.
2. Nationals of the Russian Federation, foreign nationals and stateless persons, and Russian and foreign juridical persons who are responsible for violating this Federal Act shall be prosecuted in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.
3. Officials of federal executive bodies, executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies, nationals of the Russian Federation, foreign nationals and stateless persons, and Russian and foreign juridical persons prosecuted for violating this Federal Act shall not be exempt from making compensation for the damage which they have caused.
4. Compensation for damage shall be made in accordance with the procedure established by the laws of the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER VII
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 41
Settlement of disputes

1. Disputes between nationals of the Russian Federation, foreign nationals, stateless persons, or Russian or foreign juridical persons concerning the exercise of their rights and duties in the internal maritime waters, the territorial sea and the contiguous zone shall be settled in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.
2. Disputes between the Russian Federation and foreign States concerning the exercise of their rights and duties in the internal maritime waters, the territorial sea and the contiguous zone shall be settled by peaceful means in accordance with the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

Article 42
Procedure for the entry into force of this Federal Act

This Federal Act shall enter into force on the date of its official publication.

Article 43
Harmonization of regulatory legal instruments with this Federal Act

The President of the Russian Federation is requested and the Government of the Russian Federation is instructed to harmonize their regulatory legal instruments with this Federal Act.

B. Yeltsin
President of the Russian Federation

Endnotes

1 (Note - Note)

Translated from Russian. Original text communicated by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in February 2001.