

**Resolution No. 564 of 18 July 1969 of the Council of Ministers of the USSR concerning
Procedure
for Carrying out Work on the Continental Shelf and the Protection of its Natural
Resources**

In accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dated 6 February 1968, entitled "On the continental shelf of the USSR", and with a view to ensuring the rational utilization of the natural resources of the continental shelf of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has resolved that:

1. The study, exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf of the USSR shall be permitted after registration according to the procedure prescribed by the present Resolution.

Registration shall be required in the case of operations concerned with the study, exploration and exploitation of natural resources of the continental shelf of the USSR if such operations are to be carried out on the sea-bed or in the subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the outer limit of the territorial sea of the USSR to a depth of 200 metres or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the aforementioned operations being carried out, and also on the sea-bed or in the subsoil of depressions entirely surrounded by the continental shelf of the USSR, irrespective of their depth, save as otherwise provided in an international agreement to which the USSR is a party.

2. The registration of operations concerned with the study, exploration and exploitation of natural resources of the continental shelf of the USSR shall be effected:

(a) By the authorities of the Ministry of Geology of the USSR, in the case of study and exploration of mineral and other non-living resources of the continental shelf;

(b) By those authorities of the State Mining Inspectorate of the USSR responsible for issuing mining concessions, in the case of exploitation of mineral and other non-living resources of the continental shelf;

(c) By the fishery conservation authorities of the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR in the case of study, exploration and the taking, on the continental shelf, of living organisms belonging to sedentary species.

The procedure for the registration of operations carried out on the continental shelf of the USSR shall be established by the Ministries and departments effecting such registration, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence of the USSR, the State Security Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR.

Compliance with the requirements of the present section shall not dispense foreign bodies corporate and individuals or Soviet organizations from the obligation to obtain the appropriate permit for the execution of work in cases where the obtaining of such a permit is prescribed by the legislation in force.

3. Permits for the construction of installations and other devices on the continental shelf of the USSR for the purposes of study, exploration and exploitation of its natural resources and permits for the establishment of safety zones around such installations and devices shall be issued by the Ministry of Defence of the USSR in accordance with regulations established by the said Ministry in consultation with the State Security Committee of the Council of

Ministers of the USSR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, the Ministry of the Merchant Marine, the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR, the Ministry of Geology of the USSR, the State Mining Inspectorate of the USSR and the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Resources Management of the USSR.

Permits for foreign vessels to enter the safety zones shall be issued by the Ministries and departments engaged in operations on the continental shelf of the USSR, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence of the USSR and the State Security Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

4. The construction of installations and other devices on the continental shelf of the USSR, and the maintenance, operation, protection and dismantling thereof, shall be carried out in accordance with regulations established by the Ministries and departments engaged in the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf in consultation with the Ministry of Defence of the USSR, the State Security Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR, the State Mining Inspectorate of the USSR and the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Resources Management of the USSR.

Regulations governing the establishment of safety zones and navigation procedures within such zones shall be established by the Ministry of Defence of the USSR.

5. Organizations and persons carrying out work on the continental shelf of the USSR shall be required to utilize the natural resources of the continental shelf in a rational manner, prevent the continental shelf and the superjacent waters from being polluted by industrial or other commercial refuse, sewage, radioactive substances or industrial waste, and take measures for protecting plant and animal life.

6. Operations on the continental shelf of the USSR must be carried out in compliance with:

(a) The regulations governing the study and exploration of the mineral and other non-living resources of the continental shelf, established by the Ministry of Geology of the USSR in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR;

(b) The safety regulations governing the execution of work on the continental shelf and the regulations governing the exploitation and protection of the mineral and other non-living resources of the continental shelf, established by the State Mining Inspectorate of the USSR in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR and the other Ministries and departments concerned;

(c) The regulations governing the study and exploration, and the taking and protection on the continental shelf, of living organisms belonging to sedentary species, established by the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR.

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