



THE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE (REGULATION OF FISHING) ACT, 1975



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THE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE (REGULATION OF FISHING) ACT, 1975.

¹ACT No. XXXII OF 1975

[1st March, 1975]

An Act to provide for the regulation of fishing within the exclusive fishery zone of Pakistan.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the regulation of fishing within the exclusive fishery zone of Pakistan and for matters ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title, extent, application and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Exclusive Fishery Zone (Regulation of Fishing) Act, 1975.

²[(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan and to waters within the zone].

(3) It applies to all fishing crafts within the Zone and to all persons on board such fishing crafts.

(4) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "fish" includes molluscs, crustaceans, kelp and other marine animals;

(b) "Fishery Officer" means any person who is authorised by the Federal Government, by notification in the official Gazette, to exercise or perform any of the powers or functions of Fishery Officer under this Act;

(c) "fishing" means taking or catching of fish within the Zone by any means;

(d) "fishing craft" includes every vessel of whatever description and size and in whatever way propelled or moved which is used in fishing or the transport or processing thereof;

(e) "fishing gear" includes all appliances used for fishing;

(f) "licencing authority" means any person authorized by the Federal Government, by notification in the official Gazette, to issue licenses under this Act;

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gaz. of P., 1974, Ext., Pt. III, p. 600.

²Subs. by the Exclusive Fishery Zone (Regulation of Fishing) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1983(29 of 1983), s. 2.

(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules; ¹*

(h) "rules" means rules made under this Act ²[; and].

²[(i) "Zone" means the Exclusive Economic Zone specified in section 6 of the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1976 ([LXXXII OF 1976](#))].

3. Fishing without licence prohibited. No person shall, for the purpose of fishing, operate a fishing craft or use any kind of fishing gear within the Zone except under the authority of a licence granted by the licencing authority nor otherwise than in accordance with the terms and conditions of such licence.

4. Fishing craft subject to navigational regulations.—(1) Every fishing craft shall be subject to any law relating to navigation for the time being in force.

(2) The location of nets and traps set by a fishing craft shall be prominently displayed by such means as may be prescribed.

(3) Every fishing gear shall be clear of the navigation channel and specified routes of commercial vessels.

5. Dynamiting and poisoning prohibited. No person shall use dynamite or any other explosive substance or poison, lime or noxious material for fishing or destroying fish in the Zone.

6. Closed season and prohibited area. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare any period to be period during which, and any area to be an area within which, fishing of all or any specified description of fish shall be prohibited in the Zone.

7. Power to search. Any Fishery Officer may search any fishing craft or landing ground in or on which he has reason to believe to be concealed any fish caught or taken, or anything used, in contravention of any provision of this Act or the rules.

8. Seizure and disposal—(1) If any Fishery Officer has reason to believe that any fish has been caught or taken in contravention of any provision of this Act or the rules, or that any fishing craft and fishing gear has been used for such fishing, he may arrest without warrant the owner or the person in charge of the vessel and seize such fish.

(2) Every officer making an arrest under sub-section (1) shall, without unnecessary delay, take or send the person arrested before a Magistrate having jurisdiction in the case or before the officer in charge of the nearest police-station; and thereupon the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 ([Act V of 1898](#)) applicable in respect of a person who, having been arrested without warrant, has been taken or sent before a Magistrate or an officer in charge of a police-station shall apply to him.

¹Omitted by the Exclusive Fishery Zone (Regulation of Fishing) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1983 (29 of 1983) s. 3.

²Subs. and added *ibid.*.