



Deep Sea Mining Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 53

1 Prohibition of unlicensed deep sea mining.

- [^{F1}(1) A person to whom this section applies (“P”) may not explore for mineral resources of any description in any area of the deep sea bed unless—
- (a) P holds an exploration licence (see section 2) which is in force or is the agent or employee of the holder of such a licence (acting in that capacity), and
 - (b) the licence relates to mineral resources of that description and to that area of the deep sea bed.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies (“P”) may not exploit mineral resources of any description in any area of the deep sea bed unless—
- (a) P holds an exploitation licence (see section 2) which is in force or is the agent or employee of the holder of such a licence (acting in that capacity), and
 - (b) the licence relates to mineral resources of that description and to that area of the deep sea bed.
- (2A) Subsections (1) and (2) are subject to section 3A.]
- (3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) above shall be guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on conviction on indictment, to a fine;
 - (b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.
- (4) This section applies to any person who—
- (a) is a [^{F2}United Kingdom national], a Scottish firm or a body incorporated under the law of any part of the United Kingdom; and
 - (b) is resident in any part of the United Kingdom.
- (5) Her Majesty may by Order in Council extend the application of this section—
- (a) to all [^{F2}United Kingdom nationals], Scottish firms and bodies incorporated under the law of any part of the United Kingdom who are resident outside the United Kingdom or to [^{F2}such nationals], firms and bodies who are resident in any country specified in the Order;

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deep Sea Mining Act 1981, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) to bodies incorporated under the law of any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, any colony ^{F3} . . .
- (6) In this Act—
- [^{F4}“deep sea bed” means the area of the sea bed situated beyond the limits of national jurisdiction of the United Kingdom or any other State;
- [^{F5} “ United Kingdom national ” means—
- (a) a British citizen, a British Dependent Territories citizen [^{F6}, a British National (Overseas)] or a British Overseas citizen;
- (b) a person who under the British Nationality Act 1981 is a British subject; or
- (c) a British protected person (within the meaning of that Act).]
- (7) In any proceedings, a certificate issued by the Secretary of State [^{F7}or the Scottish Ministers certifying that an area of the sea bed is beyond the limits of national jurisdiction of the United Kingdom or any other State] shall be conclusive as to that fact; and any document purporting to be such a certificate shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be such a certificate.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1)-(2A) substituted for s. 1(1)(2) (14.7.2014) by [Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 \(c. 15\), s. 2\(3\), Sch. para. 2\(2\)](#)
- F2** Words substituted by [British Nationality Act 1981 \(c. 61, SIF 87\), Sch. 7](#)
- F3** Words in s. 1(5)(b) repealed (8.11.1995) by 1995 c. 44, s. 1, [Sch. 1 Pt. II](#) Group 1
- F4** Words in s. 1(6) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 \(c. 15\), s. 2\(3\), Sch. para. 2\(3\)](#)
- F5** Words substituted by [British Nationality Act 1981 \(c. 61, SIF 87\), s. 52\(7\), Sch. 7](#)
- F6** Words inserted by [S.I. 1986/948, art. 8, Sch.](#)
- F7** Words in s. 1(7) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Deep Sea Mining Act 2014 \(c. 15\), s. 2\(3\), Sch. para. 2\(4\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 1 extended (19.1.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2978, art. 3](#)
- S. 1 extended (with modifications)(Guernsey)(19.1.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2978, art. 4, Sch.](#)
- S. 1 extended (19.1.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2979, art. 3](#)
- S. 1 extended (with modifications)(Jersey) (19.1.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2979, art. 4, Sch.](#)
- S. 1 extended (1.5.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1112, art. 2](#)
- S. 1 extended (with modifications) (Isle of Man) (1.5.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1112, art. 3, Sch. 1](#)

Changes to legislation:

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