ON PROVISIONAL MEASURES FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES AND
FOR THE REGULATION OF FISHING IN MARINE
AREAS ADJACENT TO THE COAST OF THE USSR

Edict of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet,
10 December 1976.

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The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet notes that
recently an ever greater number of states, including those
neighboring the USSR, are establishing off their coasts
economic or fishing zones with a breadth of up to
200 nautical miles, without waiting for the conclusion of
the international convention being worked out at the
The Soviet Union will also work in the future for the
regulation of the pressing problems of the legal regime of
the World Ocean on an international basis and for the
conclusion to this end of a convention in which such
problems, and in particular the questions of using the
living resources of coastal sea waters, would be resolved in
an integrated and interrelated manner, taking into account
the legal interests of all states.

Having in view that until the conclusion of such a
convention it is necessary to take measures without delay
for the protection of the interests of the Soviet state with
respect to the preservation, reproduction, and also the
optimal utilisation of the living resources of marine areas
adjacent to the coasts of the USSR, the Presidium of the
USSR Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. In marine areas, adjacent to the coast of the USSR, of
a breadth up to 200 nautical miles computed from the same
baselines as the territorial waters of the USSR, these shall
be introduced in accordance with the provisions of the
present Edict provisional measures for the preservation of
living resources and for the regulation of fishing.
The establishment of such provisional measures shall not
affect the regime of territorial waters of the USSR.

2. The USSR, within the limits of the maritime areas
provided for in Article 1 of the present Edict, shall exercise
sovereign rights over fish and other living resources for
the purpose of exploring, exploiting, and preserving them.
These rights of the USSR also shall extend to migratory
species of fish within the migratory areas of such species
except for the period when they may be within the limits
of the territorial waters or the economic or fishing zones of
other states which are recognized by the USSR.

3. The commercial catching of fish and other living resources, as well as exploratory and other operations connected with such commercial fishing, hereinafter "commercial fishing", may be carried on by foreign juridical and physical persons within the limits of the areas provided in Article 1 of the present Edict only on the basis of agreements or other arrangement between the USSR and foreign states.

4. Within the areas provided for by Article 1 of the present Edict, the optimal utilization of fish and other living resources will be effectuated on the basis of the respective scientific data and, in appropriate instances, taking into account the recommendations of competent international organizations. In particular, there shall be established for this purpose:
   a) a total annual permissible catch for each species of fish and other living resources;
   b) a portion of the annual permissible catch of fish or other living resources which may be taken by foreign fishing vessels, if the amount of the total permissible catch of any stock of a commercial species exceeds the production capacities of the Soviet commercial fishing industry;
   c) measures to ensure the rational conduct of fishing and the preservation and reproduction of living resources.

5. While observing the provisions of Articles 2, 3, and 4 of the present Edict, a catch quota may be established for foreign states, and in accordance with such quotas foreign fishing vessels shall be issued permits for commercial fishing, without which commercial fishing shall not be permitted.

6. The conditions and periods for introducing the provisional measures for the preservation of living resources and for the regulation of fishing applicable to specific marine areas adjacent to the coast of the USSR, the establishment of measures for control over the observance of the provisions of the present Edict, and also the procedure for the application of Articles 2, 3, 4, and 5, shall be determined by the USSR Council of Ministers.

7. For a violation of the provisions of the present Edict or the rules promulgated in the execution thereof, the guilty persons shall be subject to punishment in the form of a fine. The amount of the fine imposed in an administrative procedure shall be established as not exceeding 10,000 rubles.

If the said violations caused material harm or entailed other grave consequences or were twice committed, the guilty persons shall be brought to judicial responsibility.