

Law on the exploration and the exploitation of non-living resources

Official reference	Wet van 13 juni 1969 inzake de exploratie en de exploitatie van niet-levende rijkdommen van de territoriale zee en het continentaal plat	
Relevant dates	Document	13/06/1969
	Publication	8/10/1969
	Entry into force	18/10/1969
Policy level	Federal	
Type of instrument	Law	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Territorial sea, continental shelf	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal authorities; FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy	

// abstract:

This law delimits the continental shelf of the Belgian part of the North Sea. Moreover, a procedure is stipulated regarding the concessions for the exploration and exploitation of the mineral and other non-living resources of the sea bottom and subsoil. This includes drawing up an environmental impact report, an environmental impact assessment, continuous research into the impact of the activity in question on the marine environment and the sediments, etc. In case the continuous research shows an unacceptable impact, the concession can be partly or totally cancelled or suspended. This law establishes an advisory committee to ensure the coordination between the competent authorities that are involved in the management of the exploration and exploitation activities. The committee is responsible for, inter alia, the investigation of the concession applications, the formulation of policy advice, the monitoring of studies on sand extraction and the examination of the three-yearly report.

Furthermore, the regulation for the installation of cables and pipelines, artificial islands, and other facilities is discussed. Around the artificial islands, the installations and other facilities, a safety zone can be installed. People who commit criminal offences on these islands or installations, are subject to Belgian law and can be persecuted in Belgium. Finally, the people who are responsible for detecting infringements of this law are designated.