

Regulations concerning prohibition of access to Kong Karls Land

Issued by the Governor of Svalbard 1 July 1985 pursuant to section 4 of the Act of 17 July 1925 No. 11 relating to Svalbard and regulations laid down in section 3, final paragraph, of the Royal Decree of 16 December 1983 No. 1818 concerning protection of the natural environment in Svalbard. Amended by the Act of 15 May 1992 No. 337.

I

Access to Kong Karls Land shall be prohibited.

II

Kong Karls Land comprises Svenskøya, Kongsøya and Abeløya and the surrounding islands.

III

The prohibition applies to all traffic on the islands and in their surrounding sea up to 500m from land or skerries at low tide and overflight of these areas at altitudes under 500m.

The prohibition shall apply throughout the year.

IV

The access prohibition shall not apply to ambulance, police, rescue or inspection operations.

V

The purpose of the access prohibition is to prevent damage to the Svalbard polar bear population resulting from undesirable traffic in its most important denning area.

VI

The administration of these Regulations is assigned to the Governor of Svalbard.

The Governor of Svalbard may grant exemption from the access prohibition:

- a) for scientific research which cannot without major inconvenience be carried out elsewhere,
- b) when there are other special reasons for doing so.

Exemption may only be granted for activities that do not conflict with the purpose of the access prohibition.

VII

Any person who wilfully or negligently violates these Regulations or prohibitions or orders issued pursuant to these Regulations shall be liable to fines or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year. Any person who aids and abets such an offence shall be liable to the same penalty.

VIII

These regulations shall enter into force immediately.