

Regulations concerning protection of Moffen Nature Reserve in Svalbard

Laid down by the Royal Decree of 3 June 1983, pursuant to section 4 of the Act of 17 July 1925 No. 11 relating to Svalbard and the Act of 15 June 2001 No. 79 relating to the protection of the environment in Svalbard (Svalbard Environmental Protection Act). Submitted by the Ministry of the Environment. Amended by the Act of 15 May 1992 No. 333, 28 June 2002 No. 652.

I

Pursuant to section 4 of the Act of 17 July 1925 No. 11 relating to Svalbard, from 1 July 2002 pursuant to sections 12, 17, 21, 22 and 99, cf. section 102, of the Act of 15 June 2001 No. 79 relating to the protection of the environment in Svalbard, the island of Moffen in Svalbard shall be protected as a nature reserve by the Royal Decree of 3 June 1983 under the name of “Moffen Nature Reserve”.

Amended by the Regulations of 28 June 2002 No. 652 (in force from 1 July 2002).

II

The protected area comprises the island itself and a maritime zone of 300m from land or skerries at low tide.

III

The purpose of the protection is to conserve one of the main resting places for walruses in Svalbard as well as associated plant communities, birds and mammals.

IV

The following provisions apply to the reserve:

1. All technical interventions, including erection of buildings and installations of any kind, mining, drilling for oil, operation of oil wells and quarries, as well as other activities involving physical alteration of the terrain or disturbance of the natural environment, are prohibited.
2. The seabed is protected against fishing or harvesting by diving or by means of bottom trawls or dredgers.
3. Emptying of waste is prohibited. Substances and objects that may be harmful to flora or fauna or that may be unsightly must not be emptied or left behind.
4. Mammals and birds and their lairs and nests are protected against all forms of damage, destruction and unnecessary disturbance.

Hunting and trapping are prohibited. New animal species must not be introduced.

5. Plants, fossils and parts of skeletons (including teeth) must not be removed, and are protected against all forms of damage and destruction. New plant species must not be introduced.
6. All traffic, including sea traffic and airborne traffic at altitudes under 500 m is prohibited during the period from 15 May to 15 September.

V

The provisions of IV shall not preclude

1. measures for the purposes of ambulance, rescue, police and inspection operations.

2. installation, supervision, maintenance and operation of navigation aids on land (beacons, lights, etc.) in consultation with the Governor of Svalbard.

VI

The Governor of Svalbard may make exceptions from protection provisions when the purpose of the protection so requires, and for scientific research, work of importance to the public interest and in other special cases, when these do not conflict with the purpose of the protection.

VII

Any person who wilfully or negligently violates provisions laid down in or pursuant to these Regulations shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year. If a risk of substantial environmental damage has occurred or been caused or if there are especially aggravating circumstances, a term of imprisonment not exceeding three years may be imposed. Any person who aids and abets such an offence shall be liable to the same penalty.

Amended by the Regulations of 28 June 2002 No. 652 (in force from 1 July 2002).

VIII

The administration of protection provisions is assigned to the Governor of Svalbard.

IX

These provisions shall enter into force immediately.