

Text consolidated by Tulkošanas un terminoloģijas centrs (Translation and Terminology Centre) with amending laws of:

1 October 1997;
29 October 1999;
17 February 2000.

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*¹ has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following Law:

Fishery Law

Chapter I General Provisions

Section 1. Terms Used in this Law

The terms used in this Law are as follows:

1) **fish** – all species of fish and, within the meaning of this law, crayfish and other aquatic invertebrates, and lampreys;

2) **aquatic plants** – that part of aquatic biological resources directly related to fish food resources, natural spawning of fish and the natural purification process of water. In this Law, the same norms as are applicable to fish are applicable to aquatic plants;

3) **fish resources** – all fish found in the inland waters and territorial marine waters of the Republic of Latvia, as well as all fish within the waters of the economic zone of the Republic of Latvia where the Republic of Latvia has sovereign rights to catch, utilise, research, conserve and propagate such;

4) **fishing** – activity for the purpose of catching fish while utilising fishing gear and methods;

5) **fisherman** – a natural person directly engaged in fishing, that is, who operates fishing gear, or a legal person in whose name and at whose direction the fishing is performed.

6) **towpath** – a strip of land along a shoreline intended for activities in connection with fishing or shipping;

7) **amateur fishing** – **angling** – activities performed for recreation or sport in order to catch fish with angling equipment; and

8) **commercial fishing** – activities for the purpose of catching fish, utilising commercial fishing gear.

Section 2. Application of this Law

(1) This Law regulates the catching, utilisation, research, conservation, enhancement and monitoring of fish resources in inland waters, territorial marine waters (hereinafter – territorial waters) and economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia.

(2) Catching of fish resources in international waters in which the Republic of Latvia has

been allotted a catch quota, or in the waters of other states with which Latvia has concluded agreements on fisheries, shall be regulated by relevant international agreements to which the Republic of Latvia is party.

[17 February 2000]

Section 3. Property Rights in Fish Resources

(1) Fish resources in the inland waters and in territorial waters of the Republic of Latvia shall be the property of the State. The State has sovereign rights to catch, utilise, research, conserve, enhance and monitor the fish resources in the economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia.

(2) Fish, which have been raised as a result of specialised fish farming or artificial propagation, shall belong to the relevant legal or natural persons, if State budget resources have not been used for their propagation or raising.

Section 4. Utilisation of Fish Resources

The utilisation of fish resources in the inland waters, territorial waters and economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia shall be carried out in accordance with regulatory enactments, but in waters traversed by the State boundary, also in accordance with international agreements.

Chapter II Fish Resources and Management of Fish

Section 5. Principles of Fish Resource Management

(1) The principles of fish resource management include managing and utilising fish resources on the basis of survey and expert assessment thereof, and scientific recommendations.

(2) Surveys, assessment, preparation of scientific recommendations and opinions in regard to fish resources shall, pursuant to the request of the State or a legal or natural person, be performed by the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute or other legal persons whose by-laws provide for activity oriented thereto and whose research results and opinions shall be evaluated by the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute.

(3) The State, represented by the National Board of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter – the Board of Fisheries), shall manage the fish resources of the inland waters, territorial waters and economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia.

(4) The Board of Fisheries, in accordance with procedures determined by the Cabinet, may assign to local governments the management of fish resources in waters located within the administrative territory of such local governments or adjacent to it.

(5) The management of fish resources in waters which are located within the administrative territories of several local governments or which border on them shall be carried out in accordance with agreements between such local governments if management of the relevant water resources has been assigned to the local governments.

Section 6. Fishing Rights

(1) In respect of fishing rights the waters of the Republic of Latvia are categorised as follows:

1) public waters (Annex 1 of the Civil Law) which are owned by the State and the fishing rights regarding which belong to the State, except for the fishing rights in public rivers set out in Paragraph four of this Section;

2) waters for which the fishing rights belong to the State (Annexes 2 and 3 of the Civil Law), including those waters to which Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Civil Law do not apply, but which are also not in private ownership; and

3) private waters, to which Annexes 2 and 3 of the Civil Law do not apply and regarding which the fishing rights belong to the owners of the waters and shall be utilised in accordance with regulatory enactments in force.

(2) Within the economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia, as well as in international waters and waters of other states in which the Republic of Latvia has been allotted a catch quota in conformity with decisions of international fisheries organisations or in accordance with international agreements, the fishing rights in the amount of the quota allotted belong to the Republic of Latvia.

(3) In the territorial waters of the Republic of Latvia and waters of the Gulf of Riga fishing rights belong to legal and natural persons registered in the Republic of Latvia and such rights shall be exercised in accordance with regulatory enactments in force.

(4) Fishing rights in public rivers belong to each owner of land on the shore, in that part of the waters along the boundary of the property of the owner closer to their land than the land of another owner, and shall be exercised in accordance with regulatory enactments in force.

(5) Fishing rights in private waters (except in regard to those mentioned in Annexes 2 and 3 of the Civil Law) belong to the owners of the waters, and such rights shall be exercised in accordance with regulatory enactments in force.

(6) The commercial fishing rights mentioned in this Section may be exercised if the catch limit is unrestricted, that part of the limit of fishing gear as relates to commercial fishing is unrestricted, or there are unrestricted commercial fishing locations, in the relevant waters or part of them.

(7) Amateur fishing – angling – rights shall be exercised in accordance with Section 10 of this Law.

[17 February 2000]

Section 7. Transfer of Fishing Rights

(1) The Board of Fisheries, in accordance with procedures determined by the Cabinet, may transfer to a local government the fishing rights belonging to the State for waters where fish resources are managed by the relevant local government.

(2) State and local government authorities, which have fishing rights, may transfer (lease) them to other legal or natural persons in accordance with procedures determined by the Cabinet.

(3) Owners of private waters may transfer their fishing rights to other legal or natural persons, on the basis of an appropriate authorisation or lease agreement.

(4) Fishing rights in bodies of water may be leased separately or may be incorporated in a lease regarding a body of water if fishing is provided for in the lease. Provisions regarding the exploitation of a body of water, which shall be an integral component of a lease agreement regarding a body of water, shall reflect all matters connected with fishing and other economic activity, and protection and renewal of the environment and fish resources.

(5) Procedures for leasing bodies of water and the leasing and exercising of fishing rights shall be determined by the Cabinet.

(6) In leasing fishing rights, priority shall be given to co-operative associations of fishermen of the relevant local government, local and other companies whose basic activity is connected with fishing and fish processing, and residents of the relevant local government who are engaged in independent fishing (independent work), have complied with the provisions of a previously concluded agreement, and have complied with measures regulating fishing.

(7) The leased fishing rights shall not be transferred to other legal or natural persons.

(8) The Board of Fisheries shall approve the form of agreement for a lease of fishing rights.

[1 October 1997]

Section 8. Suspension of the Exercising of Leased Fishing Rights

(1) The exercising of leased fishing rights may be suspended, if:

1) the lessee of fishing rights does not fulfil the provisions of the agreement;

2) the lessee of fishing rights violates regulatory enactments in force;

3) the lessee of fishing rights violates the provisions of Section 7, Paragraph seven of this Law; or

4) a finding of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, or a recommendation of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute, provides for the suspension of the exercising of fishing rights.

(2) If the lessor and the lessee are not able to agree on the conditions for suspending the leasing agreement, the exercising of fishing rights in the cases mentioned in Paragraph one, Clauses 1 and 2 of this Section shall be suspended on the basis of a court judgment.

(3) The exercising of fishing rights, in the cases mentioned in Paragraph one, Clauses 3 and 4 of this Section, shall be suspended by a unilateral decision of the Board of Fisheries or the relevant local government pursuant to the recommendation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, the State Environment Inspection, the Marine Environment Administration or a regional environmental board, and this decision shall come into effect two weeks after its adoption.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Section 9. Tow-Path

(1) A towpath shall be determined along the shores of waters for fishing or shipping and other related activities. A towpath is not required to be determined if the private waters in their entirety and the portion of dry land adjacent to them belong to one and the same owner and fishing rights in such waters do not belong to the State.

(2) Special signs shall demarcate the towpath along the seacoast, and in land ownership plans, it shall be designated as a restriction of the right to use.

(3) Along rivers and lakes the towpath is not required to be demarcated with special signs; in land property plans it shall be designated as a restriction of the right to use.

(4) The towpath along artificially constructed canals, hydrotechnic structures and other structures on the water (an artificially constructed towpath) shall be determined in accordance with plans regarding such structures. It shall be maintained and managed by the relevant owners (users).

(5) Coastal landowners have the right to use a towpath insofar as such rights are not restricted by this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments.

(6) The use of a towpath free of charge shall be provided for:

- 1) pedestrians;
- 2) monitoring of fish resources and waters;
- 3) guarding borders; and
- 4) performing environmental protection and fire safety measures.

(7) In the towpath, only in locations especially indicated by environmental protection authorities and after the accordance of the landowner is attained, is it permitted:

- 1) to moor boats and ships, unload their cargo and store it temporarily;
- 2) to winter, construct and repair boats and ships; and
- 3) to set up fishing camps and to engage in recreation, drying of fishing equipment, and other activities related to fishing.

(8) The activities mentioned in Paragraphs six and seven of this Section may be engaged in, provided environmental protection norms are complied with, but – in respect of water bodies at borders - also the requirements of the regime regarding State borders.

(9) The width of a natural towpath shall be:

- 1) along the shores of private waters – 4 metres;
- 2) along the shores of other waters – 10 metres; and
- 3) along the seacoast – 20 metres.

(10) The Board of Fisheries in respect of fishing requirements, and the Maritime Department of the Ministry of Transport in respect of shipping requirements, may also determine a narrower or wider tow-path, however, it may not exceed 40 metres.

(11) The width of an artificially constructed towpath shall be specified in the relevant construction plan.

(12) The width of a towpath shall be measured:

- 1) along gradually sloping shores of rivers and lakes, from the normal waterline;
- 2) along steep shores of rivers and lakes, from the upper edge of the shore slope, and in addition the land from the water level up to the shore slope and the slope itself shall be included in the width of the tow-path; and

- 3) along the seacoast, from the place reached by the highest waves of the sea.

(13) In coastal cities or heavily populated areas, for fishing and shipping (if such is permitted there) the tow-path shall be used in compliance with the same provisions as in unpopulated areas; but if buildings have been constructed on the shore to the degree that it is not possible to utilise the full width prescribed in Paragraph nine of this Section, a tow-path shall be left along the shore wide enough to ensure convenient driving along the shore, evaluating, if necessary, each specific structure separately.

(14) In individual cases, when artificial shorelines are constructed in cities and heavily

populated areas, it is the duty of the relevant local government to construct, in lieu of a tow-path, berths of suitable length and width for the requirements of fishing (if such is permitted there) and shipping (if such is permitted there) in conveniently accessible areas and near access roads, and to maintain them in good condition and suitable for use.

(15) If the waterline changes naturally, the towpath shall also change in conformity with the new waterline. In cases where the riverbed is changed by artificial regulatory work, if necessary, the parcels of land for the new river beds and the towpath shall be transferred on a general basis in accordance with norms for compulsory transfer of immovable property.

(16) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a port territory whose boundaries have been determined in accordance with Section 3 of the Law on Ports.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Chapter III Fishing

Section 10. Amateur Fishing - Angling

(1) Each inhabitant of the Republic of Latvia has the right to engage in amateur fishing – angling – in all waters of the Republic of Latvia, if amateur fishing – angling – is not prohibited therein, with the exception of lakes which are privately owned or are located within the boundary of the land parcel of a land owner and in which fishing rights do not belong to the State. Appropriate signs shall be displayed at such waters.

(2) If a catch or fishing gear limit is provided for in specific waters or a part thereof permanently or for a period of time in regard to amateur fishing – angling – for especially valuable fish species, fishing rights may be exercised in accordance with special fishing permits (licences) for a fee or be acquired by tendering procedures, in compliance with regulations regarding amateur fishing – angling – in the specific bodies of water and which have been formulated in accordance with Cabinet regulations regarding general procedures applicable to licensed amateur fishing – angling – in the waters of the Republic of Latvia.

(3) Amateur fishing – angling – shall be performed in accordance with angling regulations and other regulatory norms with respect to amateur fishing – angling.

(4) The provisions in this Section do not apply to waters, which are used only for specialised fish farming or artificial propagation of fish.

(5) Foreign natural persons may angle in waters of the Republic of Latvia in accordance with amateur fishing – angling – regulations and other amateur fishing – angling – regulatory norms.

[1 October 1997]

Section 11. Commercial Fishing

(1) Legal and natural persons shall acquire the right to engage in commercial fishing in the waters of the Republic of Latvia (if commercial fishing is permitted therein) on the basis of a fishing rights leasing agreement with the manager of the fish resources of such waters and by obtaining a fishing permit (licence), or without entering into a fishing

rights leasing agreement, if the fishing is performed in accordance with Cabinet regulations regarding licensed commercial fishing and regulations regarding the exercising of fishing rights in private waters.

(2) Priority for receiving a fishing permit (licence) shall be given to co-operative associations of fishermen of the relevant local government, to local and other companies whose operations are connected with fishing and fish processing, as well as to residents of the relevant local government engaged in independent fishing (independent employment) and who have not committed violations of regulatory measures for fishing, in the previous time period.

(3) A fishing permit (licence) shall be issued by the State Environment Inspection, the Marine Environment Administration or the regional environmental boards in compliance with the limits allotted by the Board of Fisheries, indicating the quantity of fishing gear and its type or the amount of catch.

(4) The total allowable catch in the inland waters of the Republic of Latvia shall be determined in accordance with scientifically based recommendations, but in territorial waters and economic zone waters – also on the basis of recommendations of international fisheries organisations.

(5) The total allowable quantity of fishing gear and its type shall be determined by taking into account the amount of the catch determined.

(6) If the allowable catch, the amount of fishing gear or the number of commercial fishing locations are not adequate in the relevant waters or a portion of them for ensuring the exercising of fishing rights for legal or natural persons as are provided for by the Civil Law or by lease, as well as to satisfy requests submitted by legal or natural persons to enter into lease agreements for fishing rights, an auction for fishing rights leases or fishing permits (licences) may be organised.

(7) An auction may be organised either for legal or natural persons, to which, in accordance with Paragraph six of Section 7 of this Law, priority is to be given for fishing in the relevant waters or a portion of them (closed auction), or for all interested parties (open auction) for the remainder of the catch and amount of fishing gear and the remaining number of fishing locations.

(8) Commercial fishing shall be performed in compliance with commercial fishing provisions and other regulatory norms regarding commercial fishing.

(9) The provisions in this Section shall not apply to waters, which are used only for specialised fish farming and artificial propagation of fish.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Section 12. Fishing for Special Purposes and for Scientific Research Purposes

(1) Fishing for special purposes (fish farming, acclimatisation, surveys, ameliorative and other forms of fishing) and for scientific research purposes shall be performed on the basis of scientific programmes for which the accordance of the Board of Fisheries has been attained, or other materials by which the necessity for such fishing is determined, and after a fishing permit (licence) has been obtained from the State Environment Inspection.

(2) Such fishing in public waters and in waters, fishing rights for which belong to the State, shall be performed on the basis of a work schedule for which the accordance of the

relevant fish resource manager has been attained, but for private waters, based on a work schedule for which the accordance of the owner of the waters has been attained.

[17 February 2000]

Section 13. Regulations Regarding Fishing, Leasing of Fishing Rights, Exercising of Fishing Rights, and Regulations for Control of Handling of Caught Fish

(1) The Cabinet shall issue the following fishing regulations and regulations regarding the control of handling caught fish (unloading, transporting, marketing, storing and processing):

1) regulations regarding commercial fishing in territorial waters and economic zone waters;

2) regulations regarding commercial fishing in inland waters;

3) angling regulations;

4) regulations regarding the control of fish unloading; and

5) regulations regarding the inspection of fish marketing and transport facilities, storage and premises for processing.

(2) The Cabinet shall issue the following regulations regarding the leasing of fishing rights and the exercising of fishing rights:

1) regulations regarding the procedures for leasing bodies of water and commercial fishing rights, and for exercising fishing rights;

2) regulations regarding the exercising of fishing rights in private waters;

3) regulations regarding the procedures for licensed commercial fishing; and

4) regulations regarding the procedures for licensed amateur fishing – angling.

[29 October 1998; 17 February 2000]

Chapter IV Catch Statistics, Regulation of Fishing, and Restrictions

Section 14. Obligation to Provide Information about Activities Related to Fishing

(1) Legal persons and natural persons who are engaged in commercial fishing have the obligation to provide information regarding catch in accordance with such procedures and within such time periods as are stipulated in fishing rights lease agreements and prescribed in commercial fishing regulations.

(2) Information regarding fishing, fishing violations, fish unloading, fish prices, lists of fishing vessels, and fishermen and fish buyers registration shall be compiled in the Board of Fisheries computerised information system. The Marine Environment Administration, regional environmental boards and the Ship Register of the Latvian Marine Administration of the Ministry of Transport, shall provide the information necessary for meeting the requirements of the system database.

[17 February 2000]

Section 15. Regulation of Fishing

(1) Commercial fishing in waters of the Republic of Latvia shall be regulated by determining the annual total allowable catch, the number and kind of ships, the amount of fishing gear and its type and other regulatory measures for fishing, on the basis of scientific expert opinion, scientific recommendations, recommendations of international organisations, and commercial fishing regulations.

(2) Amateur fishing – angling – in waters of the Republic of Latvia shall be regulated in accordance with regulations for amateur fishing – angling– and by developing regulations for the exploitation of specific leased bodies of water, or, in accordance with Section 10, Paragraph two of this Law, licensed amateur fishing – angling – regulations for a specific body of water.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Section 16. Fishing Restrictions

In order to ensure the conservation and protection of fish resources the Board of Fisheries, on the basis of recommendations of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and after the accordance of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is attained, may prescribe prohibition of fishing for a specific period of time, prescribe restrictions, or prescribe total prohibition of fishing in particular waters or parts thereof, or such activity in the tow-path as negatively affects the hydrological regime of the waters, pollutes the waters or the tow-path, changes the water level in a body of water or creates other unfavourable conditions for fish resources, and prescribe measures to regulate and limit fishing in waters or parts thereof, where fishing is performed in order to fulfil a State contract for restocking of fish resources.

Section 17. Prohibited Fishing Methods, Gear and Means

(1) While fishing, it is prohibited to use such methods, fishing gear and means as are not provided for, or are prohibited, in the relevant fishing regulations.

(2) In particular cases, after accordance of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is attained, the fish resource manager is entitled to allow the use of fishing methods, gear and means which are not provided for in the regulations for the relevant kind of fishing, but these shall be specifically indicated in the fishing permit (licence).

Chapter V Fish Resource Protection and Monitoring

Section 18. State Authorities for Fish Resource Protection and Monitoring

The State Environment Inspection, the Marine Environment Administration and the regional environmental boards shall perform the protection and monitoring of fish resources in inland waters, territorial waters and economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia.

[1 October 1997]

Section 19. Rights of State Authorities Regarding Fish Resource Protection and Monitoring

(1) The State Environment Inspection, the Marine Environment Administration and the regional environmental boards are entitled, in accordance with procedures provided for in laws and Cabinet regulations, to perform fishing inspection in all waters (including private waters) of the Republic of Latvia, to conduct inspection of the unloading of fish, and to inspect marketing and transport facilities and any storage or production premises, if there is reason to believe that unlawfully obtained fish are being marketed, transported, stored or processed.

(2) The State Environment Inspection, the Marine Environment Administration and the regional environmental boards are entitled within the sphere of their competence to issue fishing permits (licences) and, in cases of violations, suspend the use of a fishing permit (licence) or cancel it, prepare administrative reports and impose administrative sanctions, and perform other activities in accordance with amateur fishing – angling – regulations and commercial fishing regulations.

[1 October 1997; 29 October 1998]

Section 20. Obligation to Participate in Fish Resource Protection and Monitoring

Fish resource managers and users (including lessees) of fishing rights have the obligation within the sphere of their competence to participate in the protection and monitoring of fish resources in the relevant waters.

Chapter VI Conservation and Augmentation of Fish Resources; Raising of Fish

Section 21. Conservation and Augmentation of Fish Resources

(1) Fish resource managers and users (including lessees) of fishing rights shall perform measures, in accord with the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute, for conservation of fish resources.

(2) Propagation of fish resources shall be conducted by specialised fish-raising facilities based on a Cabinet-approved State program for fish resource enhancement or - if ensuring propagation of fish resources is to be by lessees of bodies of water and of fishing rights, or by owners of private waters - in accordance with fishery exploitation regulations for the bodies of water or on the basis of separate agreements.

(3) The provisions of Section 3, Paragraph two of this Law are not applicable to fish that have been released in natural bodies of water in the course of fish resource augmentation measures being performed.

[1 October 1997]

Section 22. Relocation of Fish Species and Introduction of New Species

(1) A permit from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development,

regarding which the accordance of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and State Veterinary Department has been attained, is necessary for the relocation of fish species and for the introduction or propagation of new species in waters (irrespective of the form of ownership) of the Republic of Latvia.

(2) Information regarding the relocation of various species of fish and the introduction or propagation of new species shall be submitted to the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute.

(3) The Minister for Agriculture shall issue instructions regarding the necessary documentation for fish resource propagation (basis for fish resource enhancement measures, and preparation of documentation regarding the number of young fish and their release).

[17 February 2000]

Section 23. Permits for Raising of Fish and for Aquatic Plant Culture

A permit from a fish resource manager, for which the accordance of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development has been attained, is required for specialised raising of fish and aquatic plant culture in waters of the Republic of Latvia (irrespective of the form of ownership).

Section 24. Raising of Fish in Bodies of Water

(1) Natural bodies of water or portions thereof which have been adapted for the raising of fish, and bodies of water artificially created specifically for this purpose, shall be considered as bodies of water for raising of fish.

(2) In order to protect fish resources and to maintain water quality and quantity, the Board of Fisheries, after accordance of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is attained, may provide for a special regime in the tow-path surrounding such bodies of water.

Chapter VII

Fee for Fishing Rights and Compensation for Losses

Section 25. Fee for Fishing Rights

(1) Fishing rights in the inland waters (irrespective of the form of ownership), territorial waters and economic zone waters of the Republic of Latvia, as well as in international waters and waters of other states in which Latvia has fishing rights, shall be exercised for a fee which shall be set out in the lease agreement for the fishing rights or in the fishing permit (licence, angling card), if a leasing agreement for fishing rights has not been entered into.

(2) The fee and abatements applicable to it, as well as procedures for leases of fishing rights or tendering for fishing permits (licences), shall be determined by the Cabinet.

(3) The provisions in this Section shall not apply to waters used only for specialised fish farming and artificial propagation of fish.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Section 26. Liability for Violation of Regulatory Norms Regarding the Protection, Monitoring and Utilisation of Fish Resources, and for Losses Caused to Fish Resources

(1) Legal or natural persons who have allowed violations of this Law or of regulatory norms in regard to amateur fishing – angling – or commercial fishing, and have caused or could have caused losses to fish resources, shall be liable therefor in accordance with legislative enactments.

(2) Irrespective of the imposed administrative sanction or criminal sentence, the offender shall compensate in full for the losses caused to fish resources. Losses caused to fish resources may also be compensated for by performing enhancement measures determined by the fish resources manager and for which the accordance of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is attained.

(3) Upon any economic or scientific research work being commenced which may harm fish resources or change the ecosystem of waters, examination of the planned work by fisheries experts shall be required in order that the extent of impact and effect, the justification for the work, potential losses and the amount and form of compensation is determined.

(4) Losses caused to fish resources shall be compensated for by owners of hydroelectric facilities and performers of other economic activities by carrying out measures determined by fishery experts: releasing young fish or paying the cost of raising artificially propagated young fish or paying compensation for losses caused to fish resources.

(5) Regulations regarding the determination of losses caused to fish resources as a result of economic activity and the procedures for compensation thereof shall be issued by the Cabinet.

[17 February 2000]

**Chapter VIII
Fish Fund**

Section 27. Purpose of the Fish Fund

The purpose of the Fish Fund is to create supplementary financial resources for the financing of such scientific research as is related to research on fish resources, pollution, and the impact of various economic activities on fish resources, as well as the ensuring of measures for the enhancement and protection of fish resources.

Section 28. Sources for the Formation of the Fish Fund

The Fish Fund shall be formed from:

- 1) payments from amounts paid for leasing the exercise of fishing rights, and for fishing permits (licence, angling card);
- 2) compensation for losses caused to fish resources;
- 3) portions of fines which, in accordance with this Law and other regulatory

norms regarding fishing, have been paid for losses caused to fish resources as a result of violations;

4) the portion of the budgetary resources allocated to programs aimed at fisheries development;

5) donations by legal or natural person for fisheries development; and

6) other income.

[1 October 1997; 17 February 2000]

Section 29. Utilisation of the Fish Fund

The resources of the Fish Fund shall be utilised in accordance with the by-laws of the Fish Fund, which shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Transitional provisions

1. The Cabinet shall, within a period of one month after this Law comes into force, submit a recommendation to the *Saeima* regarding refinement of Annexes 1, 2, and 3 of the Civil Law.

2. With the coming into force of this Law, Cabinet Regulation No. 156, On Fishery, issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1994, No. 17), is repealed.

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 12 April 1995.

President

G. Ulmanis

Riga, 28 April 1995

Transitional Provisions Regarding Amendments to the Fishery Law

Transitional Provision

(regarding amending Law of 1 October 1997)

With the coming into force of this Law Cabinet Regulation No. 269, Amendments to the Fishery Law, issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1997, No. 18), is repealed.