**Scientific research within the Polish maritime areas - the most important information**

Conducting scientific research (research) within the Polish maritime areas is specified in the provisions of the Act of March 21, 1991 on the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland and maritime administration (Journal of Laws 2023, item 960, Articles 28 - 32a) – in Polish: ustawa z dnia 21 marca 1991 r.
o obszarach morskich Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i administracji morskiej.

Additional provisions regulate scientific research, where research:

* includes fishing – applies provisions of the sea fishing regulations;
* is archeological research – applies the provision of the Act of 23 July 2003 on the Protection and Care of Historical Monuments (Journal of Laws 2022, item 840);
* is related to chemical weapons, toxic chemicals and their precursors – applies the provisions of the Act of 22 June 2001 on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC Convention).

Foreign states, legal entities and natural persons and respective international organizations, may conduct research within the Polish maritime areas (both Polish internal and territorial waters and Polish exclusive economic zone) after obtaining a permit issued by:

* the minister responsible for maritime economy <https://www.gov.pl/web/infrastruktura/departament-gospodarki-morskiej-dgm> ;
* (in case of research concerns living marine resources) - by the minister responsible for fisheries.

**The application for a permit should be presented to the Polish side (Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Legal and Treaty Department:** [**https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/legal-and-treaty-department**](https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/legal-and-treaty-department)**)** no later than 3 months prior to the expected date of starting the research**, through the diplomatic mission of the applicant's country, located on the territory of the Republic of Poland. The application should be submitted in Polish.**

The permit is issued after consultation conducted with the ministers responsible for:

* climate, environment, economy, culture and protection of national heritage, the Minister of National Defense and the Head of the Internal Security Agency (minister responsible for maritime economy)
* climate, environment, economy, maritime economy, culture and protection of national heritage, the Minister of National Defense and the Head of the Internal Security Agency (minister responsible for fisheries).

The decision on refusing of granting a permit may be made due to the following reasons, if planned research:

* may pose a threat to environmental pollution, destruction of monuments, safety of navigation or national defense and security;
* directly concerns natural resources;
* requires drilling of the seabed, using of explosives or the introduction of harmful substances into the marine environment;
* requires the construction or use of artificial islands, structures and devices.

By issuing the permit / refusing to issue it, the responsible body may waive the factual justification if it is required by defense, state security, public security or public order.

The permit is transferred to the applicant through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Legal and Treaty Department), and then the diplomatic mission of the country competent for the applicant, located on the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The issued permit contains detailed information on the conducting research, including reporting.

The responsible authorities may also issue a decision on suspending of research in Polish maritime areas or decision on withdrawing of the granted permit (internal and territorial waters and exclusive economic zone), if the research:

* is carried out contrary to the provisions of the regulations, specific provisions or the granted permit;
* causes negative effects on the environment or monuments;
* poses a threat to the safety of navigation or the defense and security of the state.

In these cases the responsible bodies may waive the factual justification if it is required by defense, state security, public security or public order.