

ACT (903/1995)
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE WRECK OF THE PASSENGER SHIP M/S ESTONIA

Issued at Helsinki on 30 June 1995.

In accordance with the Decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Section 1

The wreck of the passenger ship M/S Estonia, which sank on the continental shelf of Finland on 28 September 1994, is the final resting place for the victims of the accident.

The wreck and the surrounding sea area shall be protected as provided in this Act.

Section 2

The protected area is delimited by straight lines through the following geographical coordinates in the geodetic system used in Finnish charts:

59° 22,497'N and 21° 40,193'E
59° 22,497'N and 21° 42,193'E
59° 23,497'N and 21° 42,193'E
59° 23,497'N and 21° 40,194'E.

Section 3

Diving in the protected area is prohibited. Nor is it allowed to take action in the protected area for the purpose of removing human remains or objects from the wreck or from the seabed, or to otherwise disturb the peace of the wreck.

Section 4

Notwithstanding the provisions in section 3, the authorities may cover the wreck or take measures to ensure that the wreck does not cause pollution of the environment.

Section 5

Anyone who intentionally violates the prohibition provided in section 3 shall be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for a maximum of one year for a violation of the Act on the Protection of the Wreck of the Passenger Ship M/S Estonia.

Section 6

Any property or the value of property received through the commission of an offence referred to in section 5 above shall be declared forfeited to the State.

The forfeiture of instrumentalities of crime or other property used for the commission of the offence shall be provided for in the Penal Code.

Section 7

This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 1995.