

NB: Unofficial translation; legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Government Decree on Water Resources Management Regions

(1303/2004)

Issued in Helsinki 30 December 2004

In accordance with the Government decision made on a submission by the Ministry of the Environment, the following has been enacted on the basis of sections 6 and 20 of the Act on Water Resources Management (1299/2004), issued on 30 December 2004:

Section 1 - Water resources management regions

- (1) The water resources management regions as referred to in section 3 of the Act on Water Resources Management (1299/2004), hereinafter the Water Resources Management Act, are the water resources management region of the river Vuoksi, the water resources management region of the river Kymijoki-the Gulf of Finland, the water resources management region of the river Kokemäenjoki-the Archipelago Sea-the Bothnian Sea, the water resources management region of the river Oulujoki-the river Iijoki and the water resources management region of the river Kemijoki.
- (2) An international water resources management region has been formed with Sweden in the river basin of the river Tornionjoki, and with Norway, in the river basins of the river Teno, the river Näätämönjoki and the river Paatsjoki insofar as stipulated separately under international treaties.
- (3) Water resources management regions have been determined for the river basins listed in Annex 1. Water resources management areas are located within the municipalities listed in Annex 2.

Section 2 - Coordinating regional environment centres

- (1) The coordinating regional environment centre as referred to in section 6 of the Water Resources Management Act, is the South Savo Regional Environment Centre for the water resources management region of the river Vuoksi, the Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre for the water resources management region of the river Kymijoki-the Gulf of Finland, the West Finland Regional Environment Centre for the water resources management region of the river Kokemäenjoki-the Archipelago Sea-the Bothnian Sea, the North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre for the water resources management region of the river Oulujoki-the river Iijoki, and the Lapland Regional Environment Centre for the water resources management region of the river Kemijoki.

- (2) The Lapland Regional Environment Centre shall manage the duties laid down by this Decree on the regional environment centre for the international water resources management region to be formed with Sweden and Norway.

Section 3 - Cooperation group

- (1) Within its territory, each regional environment centre shall convene one or several cooperation groups as referred to in section 14, subsection 1 of the Water Resources Management Act. The regional environment centre will attend to organising the operations of the cooperation group.
- (2) A sufficient number of representatives shall be invited to the cooperation group from key government and municipal authorities influencing the use, protection and status of waters, from entrepreneurs, organisations, owners of water regions and water users.

Section 4 - Duties of the cooperation group

- (1) The cooperation group will participate in the various stages of preparation of the water resources management plan and for this purpose, it shall:
 - 1) Submit proposals to the regional environment centre on the objectives of water resources management;
 - 2) Monitor, assess and predict the use, protection and status of waters and their development within the region; and
 - 3) Contribute to the handling of the proposal for a water resources management plan, the accounts and proposals drawn up for it, and comment on them.

Section 5 - Steering group and coordination

- (1) The Ministry of the Environment shall determine the composition of the water resources management region steering group, as referred to in section 14, subsection 2 of the Water Resources Management Act, for a period of six years at a time.
- (2) The steering group shall coordinate the accounts, monitoring programmes and programmes of measures prepared within the water resources management region and compile a proposal from them for a water resources management plan for the water resources management region in question.

Section 6 - *Measures in international water resources management regions*

- (1) Within international water resources management regions, international cooperation and the coordination of water resources management plans shall be arranged as stipulated separately under international treaty.

Section 7 - *Entry into force*

- (1) This Decree will enter into force on 1 January 2005.
- (2) Any measures necessary for the implementation of the present Decree may be taken before its entry into force.
- (3) The first cooperation groups shall be convened and the composition of the first steering groups be determined so that their terms in office begin no later than 30 June 2005.

