

**Excerpts from**

**Public Water Areas (Boundaries) Act (SFS  
1950:595)**

**Section 1.** Water areas in the sea are public (public water) where they do not form part of real property units (private water).

**Section 2.** In the sea, the following are included in real property units:

1. all water within three hundred metres of the mainland or of an island at least one hundred metres long, and also, at those points where the coastal contour line for a depth of not more than three metres extends further out to sea, all water within that contour line, and also

2. all water connected with the open sea solely via water as aforesaid;

always provided that water off the coast of Bohuslän, from Gullmarsfjorden to Hakefjorden inclusive, may not be referred to the real property units by virtue of paragraph 2.

**Section 3.** On the eastern and southern coasts of Sweden, from the frontier with Finland to Listershuvud in Blekinge, all water having a connection with the open sea other than referred to in Section 2, paragraph 2 but not exceeding one kilometre in breadth from the mainland or from an island at least one hundred metres long shall likewise be referred to the real property units.

This provision shall not apply, however, to waters off Gotland or Öland or off other islands completely separated from the mainland by water having a connection with the open sea exceeding one kilometre in breadth, computed in the manner aforesaid.

**Section 5.** In water areas other than the sea, public water exists solely in Vänern, Vättern, Hjälmaren and Storsjön in Jämtland. Concerning these lakes, the provisions of Sections 1-3 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

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Sections 4 and 6-8 contain more detailed provisions concerning the demarcation of public and private waters in certain parts of Sweden.