

Greenland Home Rule Executive Order concerning Melville Bay Nature Reserve

In accordance with § 2 and § 19 of Act of Landsting no. 11 of November 12th 1980 concerning Nature Preservation, the following is determined:

§ 1

Part of Melville Bay (Qimusseriarsuaq) with adjoining stretches of land and ice, has been designated as a nature reservation, where all wildlife is protected.

Sect. 2. The area is surrounded by an outer boundary (Protection Border I) with the following co-ordinates: the 500 m level line of the inland ice, from the position 76° 22' 30" N / 64° 01' 00" W to the position 75° 40' 30" N / 57° 56' 00" W. From this last position, due southwest to Kap Lewis on Tuttulipaluk and from there, in a straight line to the far western point of the island group Saatut (Sabine Øer). From these islands, in a straight line to the far western point of Qapiarfissalik (Thom Ø) and continuing on to the far southern point of Apussaavik (Bryant Ø). From this position onwards to the far southern point of the island Nallortoq (Kap Melville, Nallortup Nuua). From this position the boundary continues due north to the starting position 76° 22' 30" N / 64° 01' 00" W.

Sect. 3. Within the area described in sect. 2, an inner boundary (Protection Border II) exists, with the following course: From the position 75° 32' 40" N / 59° 00' 00" W in a straight line to the far western point on Nuusuup Qerqertarsua (Welhaven Ø), onwards in a straight line to the far southern point of Issuussarsuit (Kløft Ø) and onwards to the southern tip of Leven Island. From there, continuing in a straight line, to the far eastern point of Qeqertapaluk in the island group of Skene Øer and continuing, in a straight line, to the 500 m level line of the inland ice at the position of 76° 22' 40" N / 61° 55' 00" W.

§ 2

In the nature reserve all hunting, fishing, egg collecting, passage, sailing or air transport below the altitude of 500 m, is prohibited.

Sect. 2. Any persons, with permanent residence in either Upernavik or Avanersuaq municipality and possessing valid proof that their main occupation is hunting, may however, continue traditional hunting and fishing in the area between Protection Border I and Protection Border II.

Sect. 3. By traditional fishing and hunting is understood, in this connection, taking or hunting white whale (beluga), narwhal, polar bear, walrus and seal, using boats or dogsleds as means of transportation.

§ 3

Within Protection Border II, no one is exempt from the restrictions.

Sect. 2. It is permitted however, for those in compliance with the provisions stated in § 2, sect. 2., to pursue a wounded polar bear across Protection Border II, providing the wounding occurred outside this boundary.

Sect. 3. Crossing Protection Border II, whilst pursuing a wounded polar bear, must be reported to the police and the municipal council, immediately upon the return of the hunters.

§ 4

The hunters, who in accordance with § 2, sect. 2. are hunting traditionally in the area between Protection Border I and II, may lawfully seek refuge within Protection Border II, provided that weather conditions makes this necessary.

Sect. 2. Travelling to and from the port of refuge and during stay there, hunting may not take place inside Protection Border II.

Sect. 3. Crossing the boundary of Protection Border II, in connection with seeking refuge, must be reported to the police and municipal council, upon the return of the hunters.

§ 5

Traditional sledge travelling between Upernavik and Avanersuaq municipalities may only take place outside Protection Border II. In connection with such sledge travels, it is permitted to hunt for seal in the area between Protection Border I and II.

§ 6

Sledge travel across Melville Bay, for sporting or tourism purposes, is only permitted outside Protection Border I.

§ 7

Any use of boats in Melville Bay, not in accordance with § 2, sect. 2, is only permitted outside Protection Border I.

§ 8

The Greenland Home Rule Government may, for scientific purposes, dispense from the provisions in this Executive Order.

§ 9

Exempted from the provisions in §§ 2, 3, 4 and 7, are businesses, which in accordance with Act of Mineral Raw Materials in Greenland, carry out surveys, investigations or extraction of raw materials in the area.

§ 10

Violation of the provisions in §§ 2-7 may result in fines being imposed or the confiscation of the catch, hunting implements and means of transportation.

§ 11

This Executive Order is effective immediately and at the same time Order of June 27th 1980 from Rigsombudsmanden in Greenland concerning the scheduling of Melville Bay, is rescinded.

Greenland Home Rule,
Nuuk May 17th 1989

Jonathan Motzfeldt/ Aqiggsiaq Møller