

Shoreline Protection According to Swedish Environmental Legislation



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“Allemansrätten” - The Right of Public Access

- Same for Swedes as for visitors from abroad
- People can enjoy most natural spaces in Sweden, whether they are privately owned or owned by the government
- Walk freely, travel by boat and swim, go sailing or kayaking, pick mushrooms and berries in the forest etc.
- Responsibility to take care of nature and wildlife
- Show consideration for landowners and for everyone else that is out and about in the countryside.

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Shoreline protection history

- 20th Century – strong increase in urbanization
- Agricultural population – decreased from 85 to 35 percent
- Industrial workers increased from 10 to 40 percent
- Active outdoor activities increased
- Protection of nature needed



Source: nationalstadsparken.se

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Shoreline protection history

- Year 1936
 - two bills regarding the possibility of enhancing public outdoor recreation
- Year 1937
 - An investigation request called "leisure inquiry"
- Year 1940
 - The final report, providing possibilities for swimming, both in the landscape swimming areas and at other beaches. Because of World War II, the investigation did not lead to any legislation

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Shoreline protection history

- Year 1947
 - The Building Act included the first rules about beach settlements.
 - The County Administrative Board was given authority to prohibit development in particular protected areas.
- Year 1950
 - Act on temporary building prohibition in certain coastal areas came into effect.
- Year 1953
 - The temporary law was replaced by riparian law. The County Administrative Board could thereby prescribe areas where settlements could not be established without a permit.

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The logo for Lantmäteriet, the Swedish Land Surveying Agency, featuring a stylized red and white graphic element.

Shoreline protection history

- Year 1965
 - Riparian law was valid for 12 years before it became part of the Environmental Protection Act. 13,700 km of the Swedish shoreline was now protected from exploitation
- Year 1975
 - A general shoreline protection for the whole of Sweden was introduced.
- Year 1994
 - Shoreline protection was not just a social but also an environmental issue.

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The logo for Lantmäteriet, the Swedish Land Surveying Agency, featuring a stylized red and white graphic element.

The Swedish Environmental Code

- The Environmental Code shall be applied in such a way as to ensure that:
 - Human health and the environment are protected against damage
 - Valuable natural and cultural environments are protected and preserved
 - Biological diversity is preserved
 - The use of land, water and physical environment in general is such as to secure a long term good management in ecological, social, cultural and economic terms
 - Re-use and recycling

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The Swedish Environmental Code

- Shoreline protection is about both securing public access to beaches and preserving good living conditions on land and in water for plants and animals.

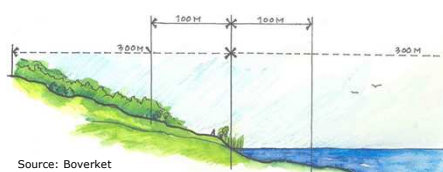


Source: bia.se

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Shoreline protection rules

- Applies by the sea, lakes and watercourses
- The purpose is to;
 - assure public access to outdoor recreation facilities
 - maintain good living conditions for plant and animal species on land and in water.
- All land and water areas are protected in a buffer zone extending up to 100 meters on either side from the shoreline
- May be extended to a maximum of 300 meters from the shoreline.



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Shoreline protection rules

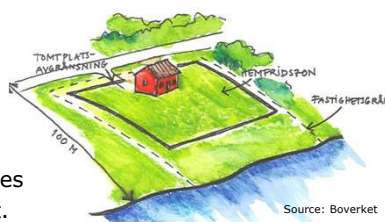
- Within shoreline protected areas it is prohibited to:
 - erect new buildings
 - make alteration of buildings in order to serve a purpose that is significantly different from that for which they were previously used
 - erect other structures which prevent the public from entering an area
 - take other actions which significantly affect the living conditions of animal and plant species.



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Shoreline protection rules

- Do not apply to buildings or structures that are necessary for the purposes of agriculture, fishing or forestry and by its function needs to be located at or close to the shoreline
- Neither public roads nor railways are affected by the rules
- Exceptions may, in other cases be granted under special circumstances;
 - land already claimed as building plot
 - land separated from the shoreline of, e.g. a road
 - building that by its function needs to be located at or close to the shoreline
 - land needed to expand ongoing activities
 - land needed to a urgent public interest.



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Shoreline protection rules



- The municipalities are the supervisory authority of shoreline protection
 - have the mandate and responsibility to ensure that no one violates the rules
 - are authorized to issue an injunction or prohibition to ensure that the shoreline protection rules are followed
 - the injunction or prohibition can be combined with a penalty fine.
- Breaking the shoreline protection rules can pass for a crime against territorial protection of the nature
 - the sentence of this crime is monetary penalty or imprisonment in up to two years
 - handled by the police and civil court system.

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