

# Regulation relating to amendments to Regulation no. 723 of 24 June 2002 relating to motor traffic in Svalbard

**Authority:** Laid down by the Ministry of Climate and the Environment under the provisions of Act no. 79 of 15 June 2001 on the Protection of the Environment in Svalbard (The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act) Sections 80, 81, 82 and 83.

The following amendments are made to

## I

Regulation no. 723 of 24 June 2002 relating to motor traffic in Svalbard:

### Section 3

Letter a) shall read as follows:

a) permanent resident: *the definition of a permanent resident given in section 3, first paragraph, letter i) of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act*);

Letter b shall read as follows:

b) visitor: *the definition of a visitor given in section 3, first paragraph letter j) of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act*);

The new letter f) shall read as follows:

f) *snowmobile*: a motor vehicle designed mainly for the transport of passengers or goods and/or to tow another vehicle and that is fitted with tracks and may be fitted with a steering ski or steering wheel and has an unladen weight not exceeding 400 kg and a design speed of more than 30 km/h;

The new letter h) shall read as follows:

h) *tourist activities*: *the definition of tourist activities given in section 2a, letter a) of Regulation no. 731 of 27 June 2002 relating to camping activities in Svalbard*.

The new letter j) shall read as follows:

j) *underwater vehicles*: *motorised vehicles for underwater use*.

### Section 6

Section 6 shall read as follows:

*Necessary off-road motor traffic is permitted for activities in accordance with the approved land-use plan in connection with*

- a) extraction of raw materials, including exploration activities, mining and soil extraction sites;
- b) building and construction activities *except for cabins*;
- c) operation and maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure that is part of the settlement management.

The current second paragraph is repealed.

### Section 8

The new section 8 shall read as follows:

**Section 8. (off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground by permanent residents)**

*Permanent residents may use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on snow-covered and frozen ground*

- a) *in the areas marked in yellow as shown on the map in Annex 1*;
- b) *along the trail between Kjellströmdalen and Agardhdalen marked with an unbroken black line as shown on the map in Annex 1*;

c) areas marked in green up until 1 March each season as shown on the map in Annex 1. Section 8a The new section 8a shall read as follows:

**Section 8a. (use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on sea ice by permanent residents)**

*Permanent residents may use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen sea areas adjacent to the areas as stated in sections 8 a) and c), except in areas as stated in the second paragraph. Between Agardhbukta and Wichebukta in Storfjorden, motor traffic shall follow the nearest navigable route on the sea ice that is closest to the coast.*

*It is forbidden to use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles after 1 March on the sea ice between Agardhbukta and Richterfjellet in Storfjorden. It is forbidden to use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles after 1 March on ice-covered sea areas in Van Mijenfjorden, Van Keulenfjorden, Tempelfjorden and Billefjorden marked in red on the map in Annex 1.*

*The prohibition does not apply to necessary motor traffic on the shortest navigable route on the sea ice in the area as shown on the map in Annex 1:*

- a) in Van Mijenfjorden, Tempelfjorden and Billefjorden to traverse the fjords;*
- b) along the shoreline on the north side of Van Mijenfjorden.*

*A navigable route means a route that is safe, secure and where the wildlife is not disturbed unnecessarily. It is not permitted to stay and stop on the sea ice longer than is necessary for safe passage.*

**Section 8b**

Section 8b shall read as follows:

**Section 8b. (off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground by visitors)**

*Visitors may use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on snow-covered and frozen ground:*

- a) in the areas marked in yellow as shown on the map in Annex 2;*
- b) in the areas marked in blue as shown on the map in Annex 2 if they are participants in tourist activities or accompanied by permanent residents;*
- c) along the trail between Kjellströmdalen and Agardhdalen marked with an unbroken black line as shown on the map in Annex 2 if they are participants in tourist activities or are accompanying permanent residents;*
- d) in areas marked in orange as shown on the map in Annex 2 if they are accompanying permanent residents of Ny-Ålesund.*

**Section 8c**

The new section 8c shall read as follows:

**Section 8c. (use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen sea areas by visitors)**

*Visitors may use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen sea areas adjacent to the areas as stated in section 8b, letter a), b) and d), except in areas stated in the second paragraph. Between Agardhbukta and Wichebukta in Storfjorden, motor traffic shall follow the nearest navigable route on the sea ice that is closest to the coast.*

*It is prohibited to use snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles after 1 March on frozen sea areas in Van Mijenfjorden, Van Keulenfjorden, Tempelfjorden, Billefjorden and Dicksonfjorden marked in red as shown on the map in Annex 2.*

*The prohibition does not apply to essential motor traffic on the shortest navigable route on the sea ice as shown on the map in Annex 2:*

- a) for crossing Tempelfjorden and Billefjorden;*
- b) along the shoreline on the north side of Van Mijenfjorden if they are participants in tourist activities;*
- c) on Van Mijenfjorden for access to cabins.*



*A navigable route means a route that is safe, secure and where the wildlife is not disturbed unnecessarily. It is not permitted to stay and stop on the sea ice longer than is necessary for safe passage.*

## Chapter V

The heading of Chapter V shall read as follows:

### **Chapter V. Motor traffic at sea**

#### Section 12a

Section 12a shall read as follows:

##### **Section 12a. (prohibition against icebreaking)**

*Breaking fast ice and ice that is about to form is forbidden. Fast ice means continuous land-fast sea ice.*

*The prohibition does not apply to motor traffic*

- a) to keep the fairway into the ports at Longyearbyen and Barentsburg open*
- b) to ensure supplies to Ny-Ålesund*
- c) for the Norwegian Coast Guard to perform necessary tasks where these cannot be solved in any other way*

#### Section 12b

The new section 12b shall read as follows:

##### **Section 12b. (marine traffic close to haul-out sites for walruses)**

*Marine traffic closer than 300 metres from walrus haul-out sites is prohibited. Walrus haul-out sites means places on land where there are several walruses together.*

#### Section 12c

The new section 12c shall read as follows

##### **Section 12c. (speed limit in the sea near bird cliffs)**

*In the period between 1 April and 31 August, marine traffic is prohibited from travelling at a speed of more than 5 knots closer than 500 metres from shore near bird cliffs as shown on the map in Annex 3.*

#### Section 12d

The new section 12d shall read as follows:

##### **Section 12d. (prohibition of underwater vehicles)**

*The use of underwater vehicles is prohibited.*

#### Section 13

Section 13 shall read as follows:

##### **Section 13. (permits upon application)**

*Upon receiving an application, the Governor of Svalbard may grant permission for*

- a) motor traffic for permanent residents in South Spitsbergen National Park, Forlandet National Park and Northwest-Spitsbergen National Park and crossing sea ice on Van Keulenfjorden*
- b) motor traffic for permanent residents in Ny Friesland in Northeast Svalbard Nature Reserve*
- c) motor traffic in land-use areas in connection with building and construction work on cabins*

*In other cases, the Governor of Svalbard may grant exemptions from the provisions when the purpose of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act so requires, or for scientific purposes, work of importance to the public interest and in other special cases.*

*When processing applications, emphasis shall be placed on the purpose of the application, the risk of environmental damage from the traffic in question and the objective of limiting motor traffic in*

Svalbard. If a permit is granted, a justification shall be given showing how these considerations have been assessed.

The permit shall be limited as regards time and place and may be restricted to apply to certain specific cases. Conditions may be attached to the permit. The permit may be altered and withdrawn if environmental considerations so require.

## II

Annexes

Annex A and B shall be repealed.

The new Annex 1 shall read as follows:

Annex 1

The new Annex 2 shall read as follows:

Annex 2

The new Annex 3 shall read as follows:








Annex 3

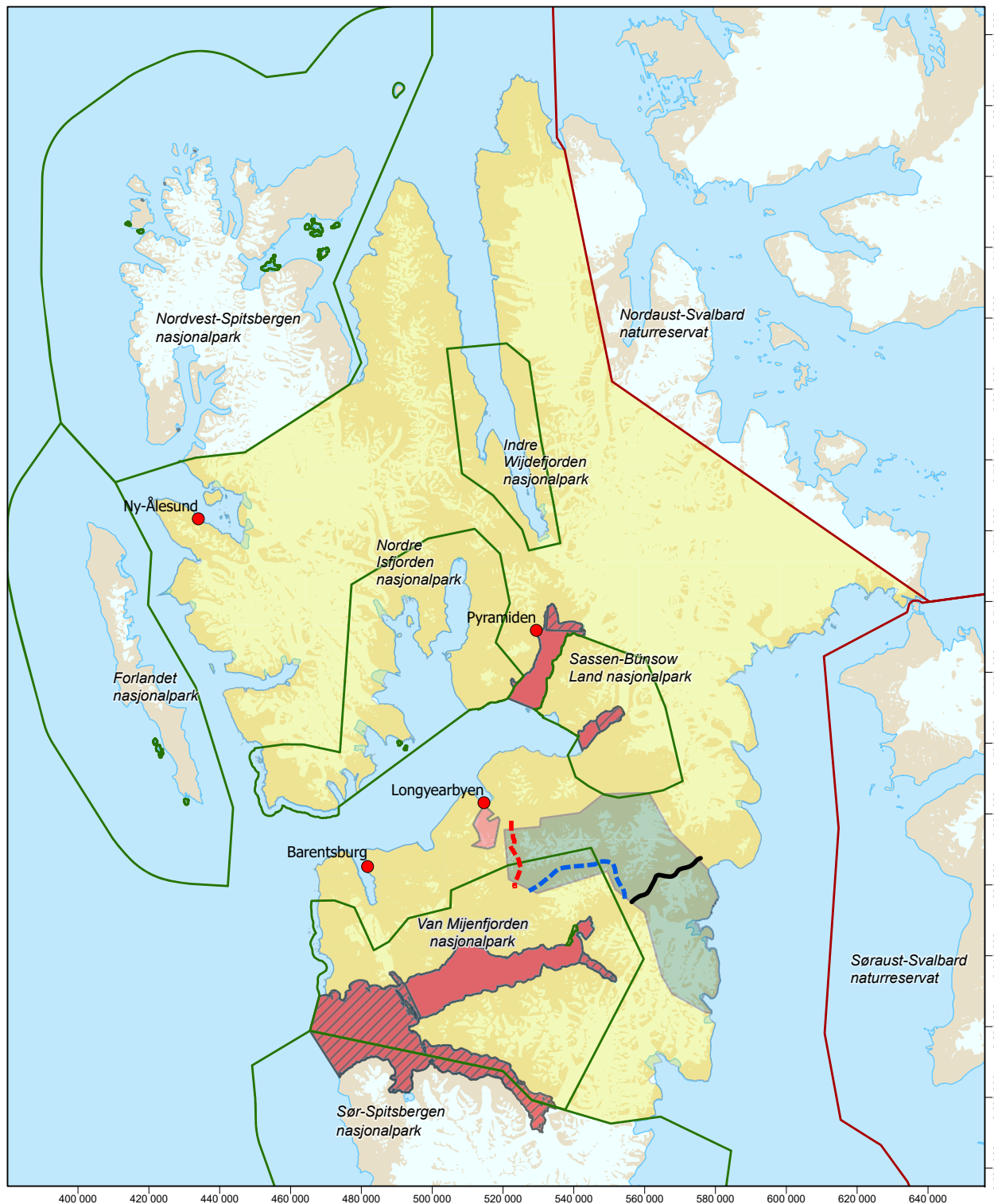
## III

The amendments will come into force on 1 January 2023.

## Appendix 1.

### Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles for permanent residents cf. §§ 8 and 8a

-  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition\*
-  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas until March 1\*
- \*Between Agardhbukta and Wichebukta in Storfjorden, motor traffic shall follow the nearest navigable route on the sea ice that is closest to the coast.
-  Prohibited in scooter-free area by Longyearbyen.
-  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to motor traffic on the shortest navigable route:
  - for crossing the fjords
  - along the shoreline on the north side of Van Mijenfjorden
-  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1.
- The Governor of Svalbard can, upon application, grant permission for crossing Van Keulenfjorden, cf. § 13 first section a)
- Trail where snowmobiles and tracked vehicles are permitted on snow-covered and frozen ground. The trail is situated along the valley of Kjellstrømdalen to the Kjellstrøm cabin, further ut south Bellsund pass and down along Passbreen and from there shortest passable route over to Agardhdalen (Agardhsletta).
-  Trail for necessary motor traffic with tracked vehicles
-  Alternative trail for necessary motor traffic that can be used on snowcovered and frozed ground when weather -or surface conditions makes it difficult to use areas marked in yellow on the map.



Map scale A3: 1: 1 200 000

Map source: Norwegian Polar Institute

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Projection: Euref 89, sone 33N

Map production: Norwegian Environment Agency

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

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**Appendix 1. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles for permanent residents cf. §§ 8 and 8a - Tempelfjorden**



Prohibited on sea ice after March 1

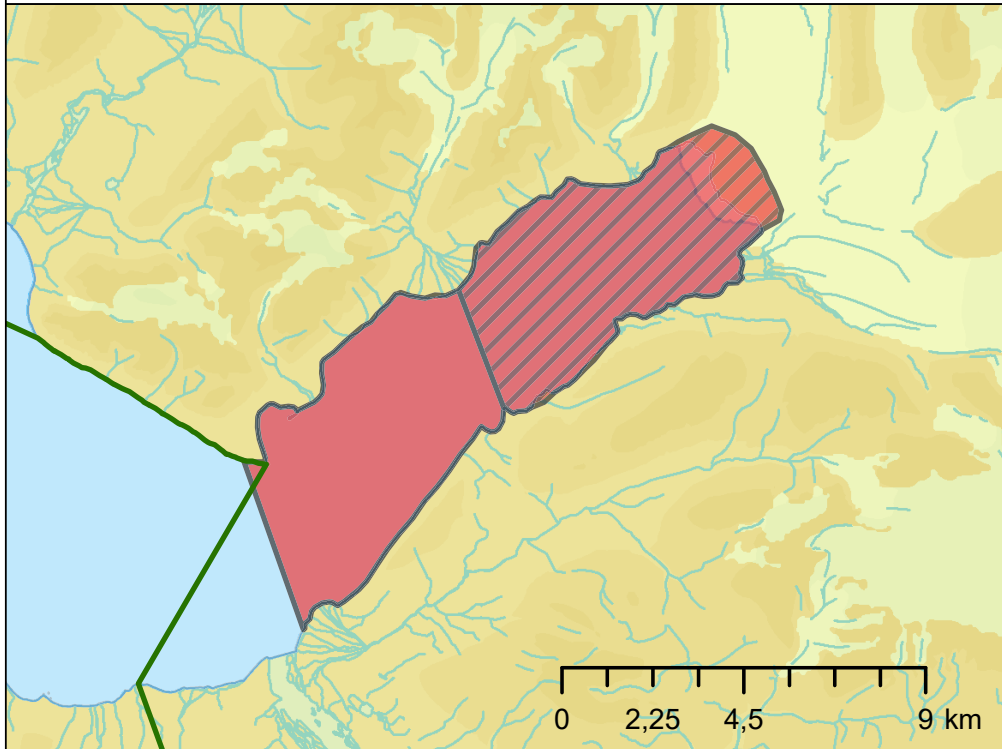


Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to crossing along the shortest navigable route



Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition

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**Appendix 1. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles for permanent residents cf. §§ 8 and 8a - Billefjorden**



Prohibited on sea ice after March 1

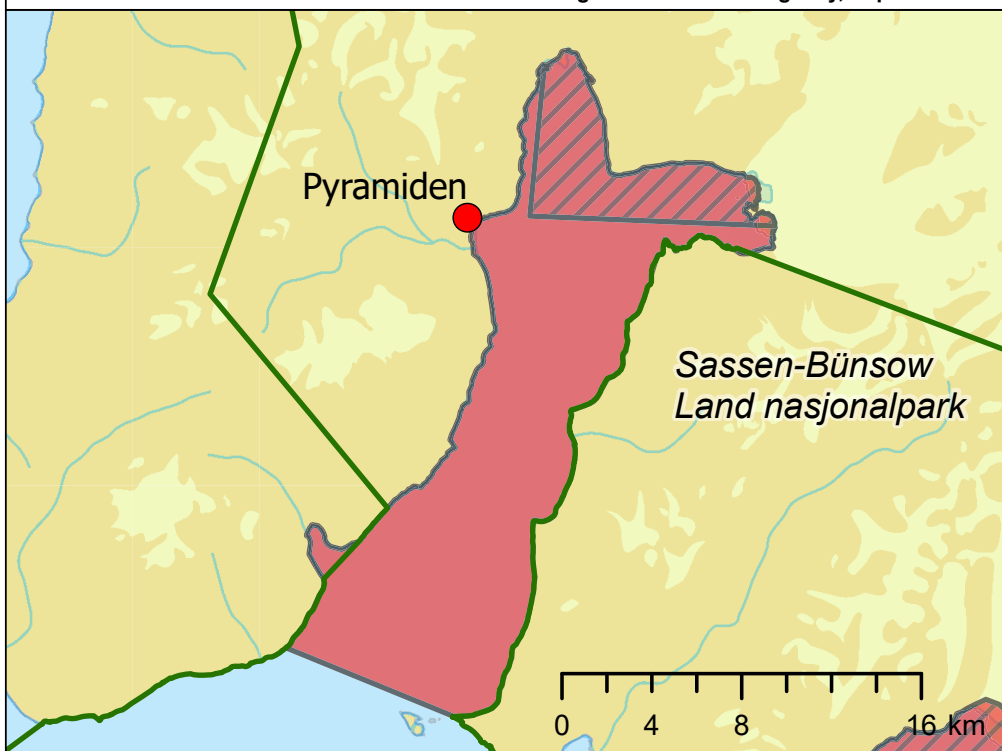


Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to crossing along the shortest navigable route






Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition

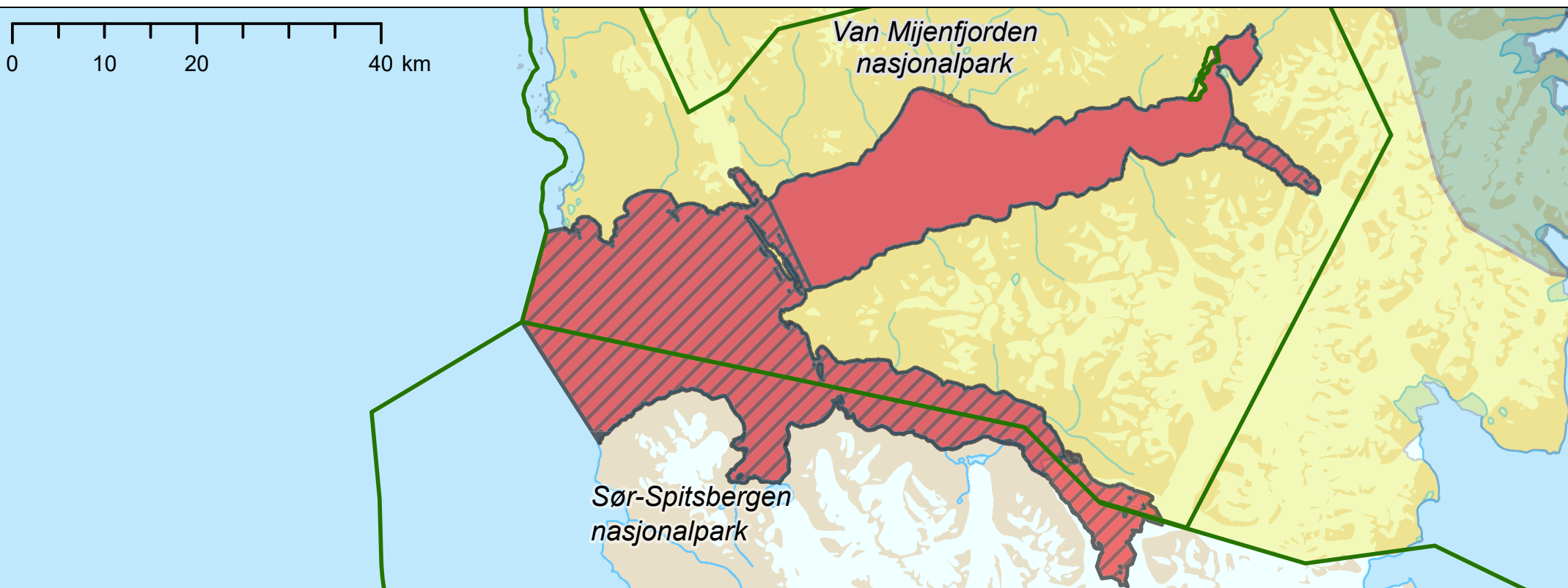
**Consultation paper,  
Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021**



**Appendix 1. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles for permanent residents cf. §§ 8 and 8a – Van Mijen- and Van Keulenfjorden**

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|  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply for crossing along the shortest navigable route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- for crossing Van Mijenfjorden</li><li>- along the shoreline on the north side of Van</li></ul> |  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1 |  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition |
|--|--|--|








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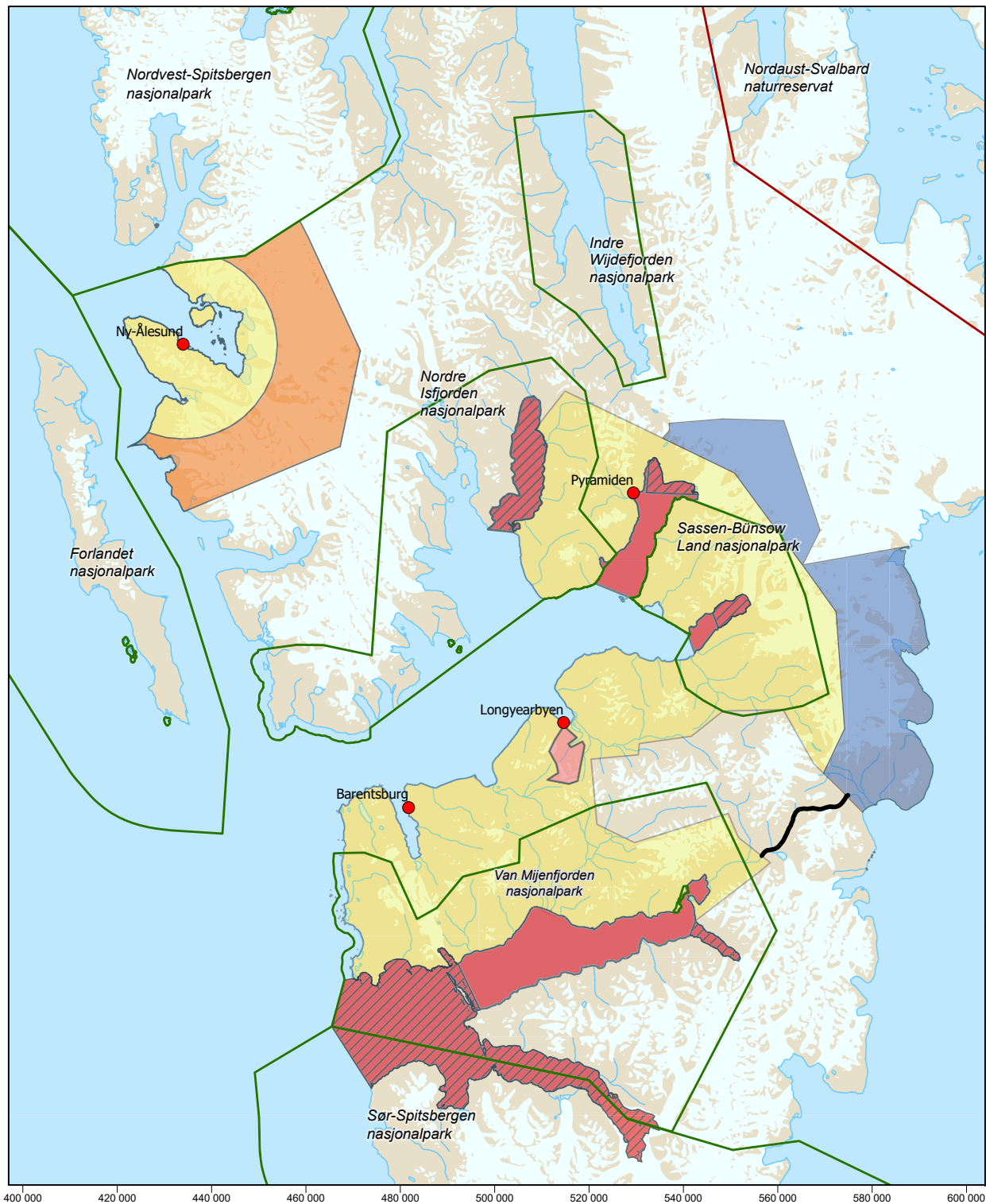




## Appendix 2.

### Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground for visitors cf. §§ 8b and 8c

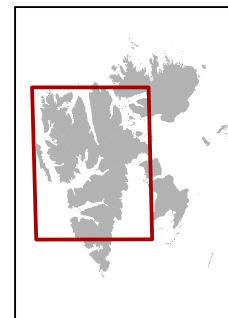
-  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition.
-  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas if they are participants in tourist activities or accompanied by permanent residents. Between Agardhbukta and Wichebukta in Storfjorden, motor traffic shall follow the nearest navigable route on the sea ice that is closest to the coast.
-  Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas for visitors if they are accompanying permanent residents of Ny-Ålesund
-  Prohibited in scooter-free area by Longyearbyen
-  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to traffic along the shortest navigable route:
  - for crossing Tempelfjorden and Billefjorden
  - on Van Mijenfjorden for access to cabins
  - along the shoreline on the north side of Van Mijenfjorden if they are participants in tourist activities if they are participants in tourist activities
-  Prohibited on sea ice after March 1
-  Trail where snowmobiles and tracked vehicles are permitted on snow-covered and frozen ground. The trail is situated along the valley of Kjellstrømdalen, to the Kjellstrøm cabin, further up south Bellsund pass and down along Passbreen and from there shortest passable passage over to Agardhdalen (Agardhsletta).






Map scale A3: 1: 900 000  
 Map source: Norwegian Polar Institute  
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 Projection: Euref 89, sone 33N  
 Map production: Norwegian Environment Agency

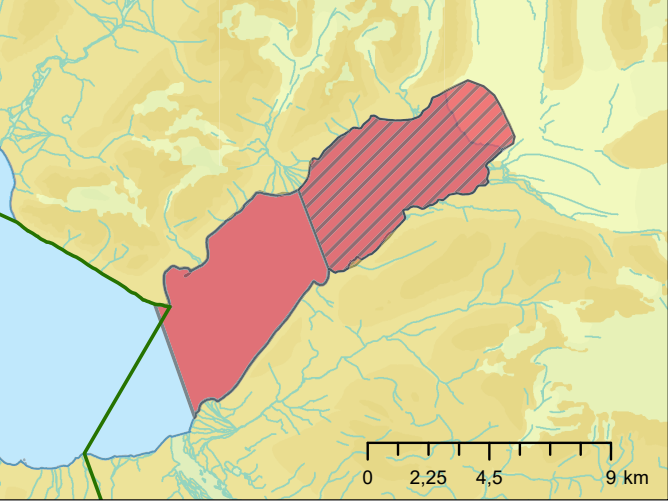
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 Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021





**Appendix 2. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground for visitors cf. §§ 8b and 8c - Tempelfjorden**

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|--|--|---|--|
|  | Prohibited on sea ice after March 1  |  | Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition |
|  | Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to crossing along the shortest navigable route | <b>Consultation paper, Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021</b>           |  |






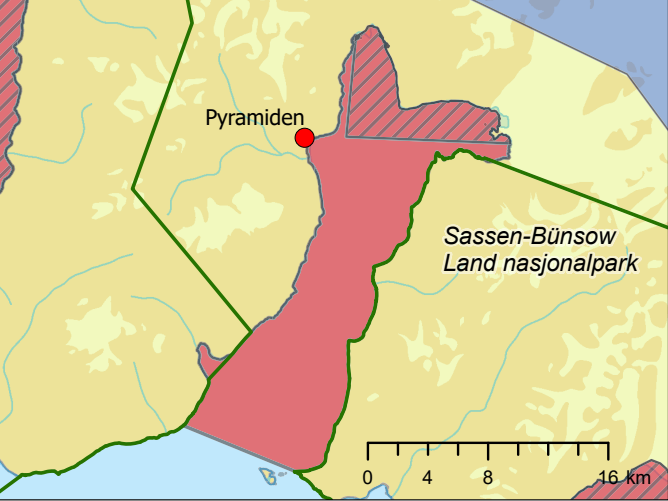
**Appendix 2. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground for visitors cf. §§ 8b and 8c - Dicksonfjorden**

- |   |                                     |   |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|  | Prohibited on sea ice after March 1 |  | Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition |
| <b>Consultation paper, Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021</b>           |                                     |   |  |

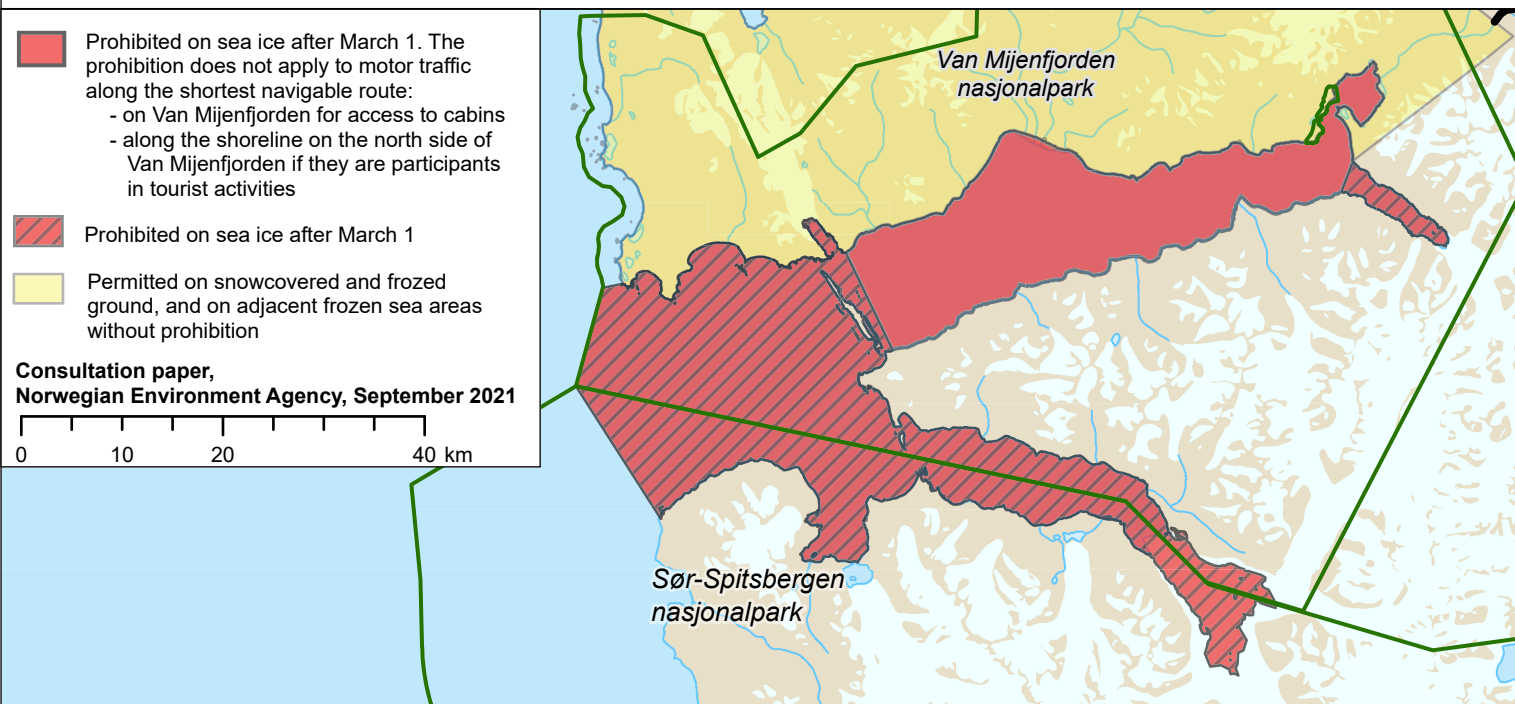


**Appendix 2. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles on frozen and snow-covered ground for visitors cf. §§ 8b and 8c - Billefjorden**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Prohibited on sea ice after March 1  |  | Permitted on snowcovered and frozed ground, and on adjacent frozen sea areas without prohibition |
|  | Prohibited on sea ice after March 1. The prohibition does not apply to crossing along the shortest navigable route | <b>Consultation paper, Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021</b>             |  |



**Appendix 2. Off-road use of snowmobiles, tracked vehicles and electric bicycles for visitors cf. §§ 8b and 8c – Van Mijen- and Van Keulenfjorden**





# Appendix 3

### Speedlimit at sea by bird cliffs cf. § 12c

● Marine traffic is prohibited from travelling at a speed of more than 5 knots closer than 500 metres from shore near bird cliffs in the period between 1 April and 31 August,

Map scale A3: 1:1 250 000

0 35 70 140 km

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Projection: Euref 89, sone 33N  
Map production: Norwegian Environment Agency  
Consultation paper, Norwegian Environment Agency, September 2021

