

resources for the State of Alabama.

(2) **CONTRACTOR.** Any individual, company, corporation, private or public institution determined by the commission to be appropriately qualified, that has applied for and received a permit or contract from the commission to begin exploration or excavation activities in state-owned waters.

(3) **CULTURAL RESOURCES.** All abandoned shipwrecks or remains of those ships and all underwater archaeological treasures, artifacts, treasure troves, or other cultural articles and materials, whether or not associated with any shipwreck, that are contained in or on submerged lands belonging to the State of Alabama and the sea within the jurisdiction of the state, and that have remained unclaimed for more than 50 years, and are eligible for, or listed in, the National Register of Historic Places or the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

(4) **EXCAVATION.** The study and intentional removal from submerged land belonging to the state, by accepted scientific methods, of any objects recognized as cultural resources.

(5) **EXPLORATION.** The systematic examination by actual survey of an area of submerged land belonging to the state for the purpose of locating and recognizing cultural resources.

(6) **TREASURE TROVE.** Any gold bullion, gold ingots, gold dust, silver bars, and other precious metals or stones.

Section 3. (a) All cultural resources as defined herein are declared to be state cultural resources subject to the exclusive dominion and control of the State of Alabama.

(b) Cultural resources shall not be taken, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, excavated, or otherwise altered without a prior contract or permit obtained through the commission, which is designated as the official custodian of state cultural resources within the jurisdiction of the State of Alabama.

Section 4. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a management plan for cultural resources. The commission may appoint an advisory committee to assist the commission in the development and implementation of a management plan for cultural resources, and to advise the commission with respect to needed rules or regulations. The commission may promulgate, in accordance with the state Administrative Procedure Act and in the best interest of the state, any rule or regulation necessary to implement this act. The rules and regulations shall have the force and effect of law.

(b) These regulations shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

(1) The classification of historic maritime and submerged resources.

(2) Contracting or permitting for various activities.

(3) Establishing a repository or repositories for holding the ships, artifacts, treasure troves, or other cultural artifacts and materials recovered in the areas stipulated in this act.

(4) Methods of enforcement of this act and rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.

Section 5. (a) Any qualified individual, company, corporation, or public institution desiring to conduct any type of exploration or excavation of cultural resources shall first make application to the