

§ 3. Alienation of State Owned or Claimed Water Bottoms.

Section 3. Except as provided in this Section, the legislature shall neither alienate nor authorize the alienation of the bed of a navigable water body, except for purposes of reclamation by the riparian owner to recover land lost through erosion. This Section shall not prevent the state from entering into agreements with riparian landowners to establish a permanent, fixed boundary between state owned or claimed and privately owned or claimed water bottoms, regardless of the navigability of the water body, nor shall it prevent the state from accepting a donation of any riparian landowner owned or claimed lands or water bottoms, subject to a perpetual reservation of minerals, regardless of any subsequent erosion or loss of the land donated, or of the present or future navigability of the water bottom donated; provided, however, all such agreements shall provide that the public shall thereafter enjoy a permanent right of reasonable, regulated public access over all present water bottoms allocated to the riparian landowner and all future water bottoms created from the riparian land as a result of natural erosion, subsidence or rising sea levels. This Section shall not prevent the leasing of state lands or water bottoms for mineral or other purposes.