



BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHING VESSEL CIRCULAR



FVC-12/03

Issued: 4th July 2012

Rev: 1

Revision Date:

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, CHARTERERS, MASTER AND CREW, DEPUTY REGISTRARS AND RESIDENT AGENTS

SUBJECT: CONSERVATION OF SILKY SHARKS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Reference: Issued in accordance with Part II 3 (1)(f) and Part VII 19(1)(2) of the Belize High Seas Fishing Act, 2003

BACKGROUND:

Considering that silky sharks are caught in association with ICCAT Fisheries and taking into account that silky sharks has been ranked as the species with the highest degree of vulnerability, the Scientific Committee of ICCAT has recommended that proper conservation and management measures, similar to those adopted for other vulnerable shark species, also be adopted for silky sharks.

APPLICATION

This Fishing Vessel Circular applies to all Belize registered fishing vessels engaged in fishing or fishing related activities in the Atlantic Ocean.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

All Belize Flagged vessels with directed fisheries of sharks or harvest sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries shall ensure the prompt release of all silky sharks whether dead or alive and shall prohibit the retention on board, transshipping or landing of any part or whole carcass of silky sharks.

Any silky sharks caught shall be promptly released unharmed, at the latest before putting the catch into the fish holds, giving due consideration to the safety of the crew members. Purse seine vessels engaged in ICCAT Fisheries shall endeavor to take additional measures to increase the survival rate of silky sharks incidentally caught.

MAINTENANCE

Ship owners, operators, masters must ensure that this Fishing Vessel Circular is maintained on board their vessel and that the contents is properly disseminated to the crew as well as to all persons affected by or having an interest in the subject matter, in a language understood by all.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this Circular shall result in punitive actions taken in accordance with Part V Section 14 of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2003

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NOTICE

This Fishing Vessel Circular is to be implemented with immediate effect and shall remain in force until further notification by the Belize Administration.

Any queries related to this Circular should be directed to:

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
Fishing Vessels Manager
Tel: 501-223-5026/5031/5047
Email: immarbe@btl.net

Belize Fisheries Department
Fisheries Administrator
Tel: 501-223-2187
fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz