



BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHING VESSEL CIRCULAR



FVC-12/04

Issued: 4th July 2012

Rev:

Revision Date:

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

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS

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:

Quotas are set to help achieve the objectives of the common fisheries policy for the conservation of and sustainable management of fish stocks.

It is the responsibility of the flag State to ensure that their fishing fleet does not exceed their quotas because overfishing endangers stocks.

Quota allocations are provided to the Government of Belize by International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on an annual basis, only after a stock assessment of each species has been carried out by the Commission's Scientific Committee.

Allocations are normally granted for tuna species such as: Northern Albacore, Southern Albacore, Northern Swordfish, Southern Swordfish, Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and skipjack.

Allocations for each species are subject to change on an annual basis.

APPLICATION

1. Fishing vessels which target the species indicated in 2.2 above in the ICCAT Convention Area are subject to a quota allocation upon request.
2. Any requests for quotas shall be made on the official application form designated for such as contained in Annex 1 of this circular.
3. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated taking into consideration the activities of the vessel and availability of quotas.
4. Quotas will be allocated from the time of approval of application to the end of the current year and will not run concurrently with the validity of the fishing licenses.

5. Quota renewal request will be considered upon submission of new application and will be approved based on the activities of the vessel and its previous utilization of quotas.
6. Unused allocated quotas by active fishing vessels cannot be transferred; therefore operators should ensure proper utilization. Transference of unused quotas will only be considered under *force majeure*.
7. Vessels with quota allocations will be required to submit estimated catch data of their vessels on a monthly basis, which shall be submitted on the prescribed form indicated in Annex 2 of this Circular. The form indicated in Annex 2 shall not replace existing reporting forms and owners/operators will still be required to complete and submit all current reporting forms in the same manner, after discharges by the vessels.
8. Quota allocations will be invoiced at the time of approval of application in accordance with the current billing method.
9. Overharvest of allocated quotas is discouraged. Any overharvest will be subject to a payback scheme, by reduced quota allocation to the vessel or a financial payback. Excessive overharvest will result in suspension of the vessel's fishing activities for a period of time to be determined by this Administration.
10. Quota allocations can be transferred between vessels upon written request and only after official approval is granted by this Administration.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Ship owners and/or operators are urged to comply with the conditions of this circular when applying for a quota allocation and the usage of any allocated quotas.

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