



# BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHING VESSEL CIRCULAR



**FVC-13/01**

---

Issued: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013

Rev:

Revision Date:

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

**SUBJECT: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSSHIPMENT VESSELS**

**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:**

*As the demands for information from regional fisheries bodies on the activities of all vessels engaged in fishing or related activities increases so does to the need for administrative efforts to proper manage, control and record the activities of these vessels.*

*Our present system of control and management of vessels engaged in the receipt of marine resources and its transport thereof requires further strengthening. This includes, the reporting of these vessels to the proper fisheries bodies of the areas where they operate, liaison with other states for the exchange of information relating to discharges conducted by these vessel in their ports or transshipment to these vessels which occur in their EEZs. Ultimately, this will entail additional enforcement measures to be implemented and monitored.*

## **APPLICATION**

1. Transshipment activities can only take place by vessels that have been authorized/licensed to do so by this Administration.
2. Depending on the area of operation, the vessel, after receiving its authorization will be recommended for inclusion on the relevant RFMO Authorized vessel listing regardless of what types of species will be received by the vessel.
3. All transshipment activities must be notified to this Administration prior to the engagement of such activities so that we can carry out due diligence to ensure that vessels from which cargo is being taken is not IUU.

4. Transhipments which occur under the jurisdiction of another State are subject to prior authorization from that State and prior notification to this Administration of its intention to carry out such activities.
5. An original copy of the authorization issued by the State under whose jurisdiction transhipment will be carried out must be kept on board the vessel and a copy should be sent to this Administration.
6. The Master of the carrier vessel shall complete and submit to this Administration a Transhipment Declaration Form within 24 hours of completion of the transhipment.
7. Owners of carrier vessels must ensure at all times that the vessel from which it receives its cargo has complied with all relevant laws and regulations governing transhipment at sea or at port in accordance with the area of operation.
8. The master of the carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing transmit a transhipment declaration to the State where landing is to take place with copy to this Administration.
9. For vessels that will engage in the transhipment of tuna or tuna like species, owners/operators should ensure that vessel has on board an observer from the relevant RFMO area. The observer will be responsible to ensure adherence to the relevant Recommendations.

#### **ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE**

This Circular takes effect immediately and Ship owners and/or operators are hereby urged to comply with the conditions of this circular. Failure to comply with this Circular will result in disciplinary actions being taken against the owners/operators of the vessel.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NOTICE**

This Fishing Vessel Circular is to be implemented with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 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](mailto:immarbe@btl.net)

Belize Fisheries Department  
Fisheries Administrator  
Tel: 501-223-2187  
[fisheries\\_department@fisheries.gov.bz](mailto:fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz)