



# BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHING VESSEL CIRCULAR



FVC-13/05

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Issued: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Rev: 1

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

**SUBJECT: OWNERSHIP VERIFICATION FOR FISHING 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**

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## **BACKGROUND:**

*During an EU Mission to Belize which was held in November 2010, several issues were identified which they believed would impede Belize's proper implementation of the EU IUU Regulation. One such issue highlighted was in respect to information requested on ownership details and our ability to identify economic beneficiaries of IBC companies incorporated locally and internationally for Belize registered and licensed fishing vessels.*

*In order to fully implement the EU IUU Regulation and other international requirements and also to strengthen the management of our fishing fleet, IMMARBE, together with the Belize Fisheries Department will introduce additional measures regarding information submitted for the beneficial ownership(s) of our vessels*

## **APPLICABILITY**

This Circular is applicable to all Belize registered fishing vessels operating on the high seas.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

The following documents are required to be submitted together with application for High Seas Fishing Licenses or renewals thereof.

### **Statutory Declaration**

A duly notarized statutory declaration appointing a legal representative for the vessel must be submitted

### **Individual Owners**

Where a vessel is owned and/or operated by one individual;

- The name of and permanent bona-fide physical permanent address, and wherever possible, his date of birth.

- Such proof of identify can be provided by submission of a national identity card, passport or other similar identification document in addition to documentation showing physical address.
- Each document sent in to prove your name and address must be from a different company or institution.
- The name, initial, title and address, including postcode on each document must be the same as the information in our records. Documents that only contain your title and surname will not be acceptable.

### **Corporate Clients**

Where a vessel is owned and/or operated by a corporate ownership, the following documents will need to be provided.

- A copy of the certificate of incorporation and, where applicable, certificate of change of name.
- Certificate of good standing and a properly authorized mandate of the company to establish the business relationship.
- A register of members or a list of the names and addresses of the shareholders holding controlling interest in the company.
- Copies of identification documents of at least two of the directors (if there is more than one) and authorized signatories of the company.
- A copy of the memorandum and articles of association or bylaws of the company.
- Appropriate information regarding ultimate beneficial ownership, including permanent physical addresses.

### **Partnerships/unincorporated business**

In the case of local limited partnerships; a copy of the certificate of registration and a certificate of good standing certified by the Registrar of Companies.

In the case of unincorporated businesses or partnerships in which the general partner does not fall within the above paragraph, the following information shall be required:

- Evidence of the identity of a majority of the partners, owners or managers and the authorized signatories
- A copy of the mandate from the partnership or unincorporated business authorizing the establishment of the business relationship and confirmation of any authorized signatories

### **Confidentiality**

IMMARBE and the Belize Fisheries Department shall strictly maintain the confidentiality of all documents and information provided by our vessel owners. Disclosure of information to third parties will only be entertained upon consent of disclosure from vessel owner(s). Both parties also agree to make no use thereof of the information provided except for the purpose for what it is intended.

### **Annex I**

Annex I attached to this circular gives a list of accepted forms of proof of address.

## **ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE**

This Circular is considered a legally binding document in accordance with Part XIII 108(1)(2) of the Merchant Ships Registration Act 2010. Failure to comply with this circular will result in disciplinary actions taken against the vessel owners and operators and any other party affiliated with the operation of the vessel.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

This Fishing Vessel Circular replaces Notice 002/2011 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 and is to be implemented with immediate effect and shall remain in force until further notification by the Belize Administration.

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***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)

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