

Fishing Vessel Notice

Date: 10-August-2021

Notice Number 002-2021

To: All Ship Owners, Operators, Deputy Registrars, Resident Agents, Representatives, and other Stakeholders

Subject: **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING THE PORT OF MONTEVIDEO**

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing seeks to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of effective port State measures as a means of ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources. The intention of the Agreement is that it will be applied widely and effectively by Parties in their capacities as port States for vessels not entitled to fly their flags. **It will apply to those vessels when seeking entry to Parties' ports or while they are in port.**

Belize has not yet ratified this Agreement, but we are committed to act consistently with its provisions. As a result, we provide herein the requirement for entering the port of Montevideo, Uruguay in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and the national laws of that country.

The regulation for entering the port of Montevideo, provides that a vessel must send to the National Directorate of Aquatic Resources an application for entry, four days in advance of arrival, requesting approval to enter their port. The relevant request form is annexed to this Notice for reference. The Authorities will examine the request and within three (3) days will determine if it meets the requirements for entry. For vessels that have received transshipment¹ at sea, the application for entry must be sent five (5) days prior to arrival.

The relevant document that is required to be submitted together with the application for entry into port is a VMS certificate for the relevant fishing period issued by the Flag State of the vessel, in this case, by the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit. For reference, the certificate must include data on the vessel's operations in any jurisdictional waters, third country waters, RFMO areas or international waters, together with all relevant permits. The area and FAO sub-area must also

¹ Transshipment at sea is prohibited for Belize flagged vessels unless expressly authorized.

be included. The certificate must also be accompanied by a tract map with the vessel's route as well as geographical positions.

The required information is mandatory to authorize or deny the entry of a vessel into port. Therefore, owners and operators shall abide by these requirements to ensure that there are no inconveniences when trying to access port.

Vessel owners and operators are urged to ensure adherence to the laws of **ALL** other authorities regarding the requirement for the entry into ports in accordance with the Agreement referenced herein or the national laws of a country as it pertains to port State measures.

The VMS certificate can be issued upon request.

Please direct all queries and concern to:
Valarie Lanza
Director of High Seas Fisheries
Director@bhsfu.gov.bz

