



**BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHERIES UNIT
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**

Policy Name:	POLICY FOR LICENSING OF HIGH SEAS FISHING VESSELS				
Approval Authority:	Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU)	Original date of Adoption	July 2017	Reviewed:	
Responsible Executive:	Director of High Seas Fisheries	Revised:			
Responsible Office:	Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit	Contact:	Valarie Lanza		

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
1.0 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Purpose	3
1.2 Scope and Applicability	3
1.3 Licensing Authority	3
1.4 Registering Authority	3
1.5 Legal Framework	4
1.6 Review	4
2.0 ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO FISHING LICENSES	4
3.0 VESSELS EXEMPTED FROM OBTAINING A FISHING LICENSE	4
4.0 CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION	5
4.1 Vessel Registration and Licensing Criteria	5
4.2 Reefer Vessel License Criteria	7
4.3 Support Vessel License Criteria	8
5.0 LICENSING PROCESS	9
5.1 Responsibility of the License Holder	10
5.2 License Conditions	11
5.3 License Validity Period and Renewal	12
5.4 Change of Ownership	13
5.5 Change in Vessel Particulars	13
5.6 Refusal of a License Application	13
5.7 Cancellation or Suspension of License	14
5.8 EEZ Licenses	15
5.9 Licensing of Fishing Vessels applying for ICCAT Quotas	15
6.0 FEES	16
7.0 MONITOR, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF LICENSED FISHING VESSELS	16
8.0 RECORD OF LICENSED FISHING VESSELS	16
9.0 SANCTIONS	16
10.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS	16
ANNEX 1 – Reporting, Vessel Monitoring, Port Calls and Inspections, Transshipment and At-Sea Observer for Licensed Fishing Vessels	18

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Fishing licenses form an integral part of the management and control of high seas fishing vessels, forming the legal basis for regulating their activities on the high seas and in areas beyond national jurisdiction. They grant explicit permission to vessels to conduct fishing and fishing related activities and further outline the limitations and terms and conditions of the license. Fishing licenses are issued for a specific time period and grants limited fishing privilege which terminates upon expiration of the license. **No activity requiring the issuance of a license shall take place until a license has been legally issued.**

1.1 Purpose

This Policy document was prepared to provide vessel owners, operators and other interested parties with Belize's policy regarding the issuance of high seas fishing licenses. It draws on legislation, guidelines and procedures to explain the requirements and criteria established by the Government of Belize with respect to the licensing of fishing vessels on the high seas and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The Director for High Seas Fisheries reserves the right to make exceptions to the provisions of this Policy.

1.2 Scope and Applicability

This Policy applies to all registered fishing vessels that wish to carry out fishing or fishing related operations on the high seas and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

1.3 Licensing Authority

Pursuant to Part II Section 5(1) of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013, the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), hereinafter referred to as the BHSFU, is the competent authority responsible for the issuance of a fishing licenses.

This Licensing Policy is approved by the Registrar of Ships and implemented by the Director for High Seas Fisheries.

1.4 Registering Authority

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, hereinafter referred to IMMARBE, is the competent authority responsible for the registration of fishing vessels.

1.5 Legal Framework

The High Seas Fishing Act 2013, the High Seas Fishing (Licensing) Regulations, the High Seas Fishing (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) Regulations and the High Seas Fishing (Sanctions) Regulation sets out the legal parameters for the formulation of this Policy.

1.6 Review

This Policy is a living document and shall be reviewed as necessary. This policy and any updates will be available on the BHSFU website (www.bhsfu.gov.bz).

2.0 ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO FISHING LICENSES

Part IV Section 15 of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013 list all the activities that require a fishing license and authorization. The below table sets out the activities that require a fishing license and the type of fishing license that will be required.

Activities subject to license and authorization	Type of License required
Fishing for tuna, tuna like species and sharks	High Seas Fishing License
Fishing for non-tuna species	High Seas Fishing License
Transshipment and other related activities, applicable to reefer carriers, fish carrier and "mother" ships	Authorization to Transport Marine Resources
Activities that may be in support of fishing or any fishing related activities	Permit for Fishing Support
Fish Processing	High Seas Fishing License
Commercial pilot fishing	High Seas Fishing License
Marine Scientific Research	Permit to Carry Out Scientific Research

3.0 VESSELS EXEMPTED FROM OBTAINING A FISHING LICENSE

The following vessels are exempted from obtaining a fishing license.

- a. Fishing vessels registered under three-month special registration for one delivery voyage;
- b. Fishing vessels that are registered with condition "NOT VALID FOR NAVIGATION"
- c. Fishing Vessels that are registered as chartered out. In this instance, while chartered vessels are not required to obtain a fishing license they are required to comply with our Charter Out Registration regulation.

- d. Fishing vessels registered under "laid up" status for repairs, surveys, inter alia are not required to obtain a fishing license, but are required to notify the duration of their laid-up period and agree to comply with licensing requirements once vessel resumes operation.
- e. Fishing vessels that are registered "under construction".

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION

The Director for High Seas Fisheries shall, as soon as is practicable after the receipt of an application, consider the application.

The Director or his/her designate shall evaluate the license application taking into account –

- a. Any applicable national fisheries policy; and
- b. The provisions of any relevant fisheries management plan;
- c. Any applicable regional fisheries management arrangement or agreement;

The Director may, in considering a license application, request the applicant to provide further information in relation to the application as considered necessary, including where appropriate, information on beneficial ownership or on the potential impact of the operation of the license on the environment and how this would be mitigated.

If the license application satisfies all licensing requirements authorization will be granted for the issue of the License.

4.1 Vessel Registration and Licensing Criteria

Before obtaining a fishing license, a vessel must be registered with IMMARBE. Unless a vessel is registered, it will not be able to obtain a fishing license. Similarly, if the BHSFU is unable to issue a license to a vessel that requires one for operations, the vessel should not be registered.

A vessel may be registered upon receipt of the application, the payment of the proper fees and the provision of the required data on the vessel characteristics. Registration of a vessel is completed by:

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks

Belize City, Belize

Tel: 501-22-35026 | Fax: 501-22-35087

Email: immarbe@btl.net | immarbe@immarbe.com

Website: www.immarbe.com

The relevant documents, requirements and forms for registration can be found on the IMMARBE website or by contacting the offices directly.

The BHSFU and IMMARBE works collaboratively in deciding the registration and licensing of a fishing vessel. Prior to the acceptance of a registration, the BHSFU carries out a thorough background search to ensure that the vessel and ownership has no IUU history or recorded legal issues with other States.

IMMARBE reserves the right to reject the acceptance of a fishing vessel irrespective of any clearance granted by the BHSFU in accordance with its rules and regulations.

All application for licenses should be made by the vessel's resident agent or legal representative on the appropriate form. The application shall be accompanied by the following documentation.

- a. The vessel's current certificate of registry;
- b. License or authorization for vessels which will operate in the EEZ of another State;
- c. Power of attorney appointing a nominee or authorized representative;
- d. Signed, stamped and notarized declaration from the owner, operator and master declaring no previous involvement in IUU activities and accepting joint liability for any infractions committed against the High Sea Fisheries Act, 2013;
- e. Annual operational plan of the vessel;
- f. Crew list;
- g. Current photo of the vessel displaying all relevant markings (must be digitally marked with the time and date);
- h. Ownership documents as described below:
 - i. For Individual Owners the following documents and information are required:
 - name of bona-fide owner;

- physical address of the owner and recent (no older than 3 months) proof of address
- valid national identification card, passport or other similar identification in addition to documentation showing physical address

ii. For Corporate Owners the following documents are required:

- a copy of the certificate of incorporation and where applicable, certificate of change of name;
- a 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 address of the shareholder holding controlling interest in the company
- copies of identification documents of at least two of the directors (if there are more than one) and authorized signatories of the company;
- a copy of the memorandum and articles of association or bylaws of the company;
- document which authenticates bona-fide ownership and clearly states permanent physical address of the company.

iii For Partnership/Unincorporated Business Owners the following documents are required:

- In case of local limited partnerships:
- A copy of the certified registration;
- Certificate of good standing issued by the Registrar of Companies;
- In case of unincorporated business:
- Evidence of the identify of a majority of the partners, owners or manager and authorized signature;
- A copy of the mandate from the partnership or unincorporated business authorizing the establishment of the business relationship and confirmation of any authorized signatories.

4.2 Reefer Vessel License Criteria

In addition to the above licensing criteria, a reefer vessel may only be licensed to transport marine resources under the following conditions: -

- a. Owner must agree to have the vessel listed on the relevant RFMO vessel list;

- b. Vessel can only receive cargo from other Belize registered and licensed vessels;
- c. Vessel may, upon request take cargo from other non-Belize registered vessels provided that it is done under an Regional Observer Program.
- d. Vessel can only carry out transshipment at port subject to prior approval from the flag State and the coastal State;
- e. Vessel can only operate in the convention area where Belize is a member State;
- f. Vessel can only operate in the convention area of one RFMO at a time;
- g. Vessel transporting fish to the EU must have Belize Sanitary Certification and be listed on the DG-SANCO list of authorized vessels.
- h. Vessel owner shall agree to comply with Belize reporting requirements for carrier vessels
- i. Vessel owners must be willing to have an observer placed on the vessel at the request of the BHSFU;
- j. Owner must ensure installation and uninterrupted reporting of VMS unit;
- k. Vessel must remain at a port to await receipt of their license before embarking on its first voyage under Belize flag. (especially for new registrations)

The number of Reefer Vessels that may be accommodated is in accordance with Belize's High Seas Fleet Policy. Once this limit is reached, no additional reefer vessels can be licensed.

4.3 Support Vessel License Criteria

A support vessel may be licensed in accordance with the following criteria:

- a. Owner must agree to have the vessel listed on the relevant RFMO vessel list;
- b. Vessel can only provide fishing support services to Belize flagged vessels or vessels listed on the relevant RFMO list;
- c. Vessel must provide full information on the type of fishing support services that will be provided to fishing vessels i.e. retrieval/deployment of FADs, change of crew, provisions;
- d. Vessel must operate within the convention area where Belize is a member state;
- e. Owner must ensure installation of VMS unit.

5.0 LICENSING PROCESS

The table below outlines the process carried out for every license application. This process ensures that all license requirements are assessed in a consistent and transparent manner.

The BHSFU recommends all applicants to self-assess their license application before submission. Assessment should be made against all requirements by referring to this Policy. The License Application Form with Checklist is available on our website www.bhsfu.gob.bz.

Applicants should not submit an application unless they are satisfied that all requirements have been met.

When considering a license application, the Director may request that additional information be provided and will instruct the Licensing Officer to request this from the applicant.

Process	Procedure	Responsibility
STEP 1	The license applicant should contact the BHSFU directly or retrieve information from our website regarding license requirements and application. Applicants should use the checklist of documents, which is included as part of the application to ensure that all documents are submitted. When all requirements are met, the applicant should submit the application together with the relevant fees.	License Applicant
STEP 2	The BHSFU will review every application to confirm if the application meets all licensing requirement. If all requirements are not met the license applicant shall be contacted and if additional information is not received within a reasonable time the application will be kept in abeyance. Once all the requirements are met, the application is approved, and the license can be issued.	Licensing Officer
STEP 3	A draft of the license is issued and submitted to the Director together with all supporting documents for review and final acceptance.	Director
STEP 4 (Renewals)	The BHSFU will review all application for renewals, which shall be submitted by the applicant 30 days prior to the	License Applicant Licensing Officer

	expiration of the current license. The Director will approve or reject the renewal of the application subject to the all requirements being met.	Director
STEP 4	The Licensing Officer will notify the applicant if the license application has been approved or refused. If the application is approved, confirmation of payment or remittance thereof should be confirmed by the Licensing Officer in order to finalize the process. If the application is declined, the applicant will be informed of the grounds for refusal and can resubmit a new or revised application.	Licensing Officer
STEP 5	Once the receipt of fees has been confirmed by the Accounts Department, a receipt will be issued and the license will be processed. Copy of wire transfer slip will also be accepted as confirmation of receipt of payment	License Officer
STEP 6	The license process is finalized when the license is packaged and dispatched to the address provided by the License Applicant.	Licensing Officer

5.1 Responsibility of the License Holder

The responsibility of the license holder is as follows:

- a. Ensure that the vessel is equipped with its vessel monitoring equipment prior to departure from port;
- b. Ensure that vessel is in possession of its license or a certified copy prior to departure from port (For new registration, the new vessel must remain at port for their physical license and master is expected to sign a declaration of receipt and send to our office for official authorization to leave the port);
- c. Ensure that a valid copy of the license is on board at all times;
- d. Record all relevant data on vessel's catches and operation in the vessel's logbook;
- e. Keeping of logbook on board at all times for ready inspection;
- f. Submission of all relevant data and documents required for licensing and renewal;
- g. Notify the BHSFU of any changes in ownership, gear or other particulars of the vessel;

- h. Ensure that vessel and gear are properly marked in accordance with relevant regulations.

It is the responsibility of every license holder to ensure they are up to date with current license conditions applicable to their license. If unsure, seek clarification from the BHSFU

5.2 License Conditions

Every license issued shall be subject to the general terms and conditions which are attached to the license and as contained under Section 9 of the High Seas Fishing Licensing Regulations, 2014. These conditions are summarized below.

1. The master shall keep the License or a certified copy thereof on board at all times and shall produce the license for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer, a high seas fisheries inspector or foreign high seas inspectors or any other person authorized by this Administration.
2. Fishing is not authorized in any other areas on the high seas except as authorized by the license.
3. The license does not allow for the targeting of species other than what is specified on the license.
4. The fishing gear of the vessel named in this license must be stowed in such a manner that it is not immediately available for fishing whenever the vessel is present in any areas where such gear usage is prohibited or in areas closed to fishing activities.
5. The vessel shall clearly display on each side and the deck, its international Radio Call Sign, Port of Registry and/or the country (flag state) registration number. Markings shall be displayed in accordance with the FAO Standard Specifications for Markings and Identification of Fishing Vessels and Belize's Fishing Vessel Circular 08-02
6. The master shall ensure that its vessel monitoring system (VMS) is functional at all times while at sea and at port. Tampering of a VMS is a serious violation which carries a minimum fine of US\$50,000 in accordance with the High Seas Fishing (Sanctions) Regulation.

7. The Master shall complete daily catch reports (log sheets) in the form approved by this Administration and shall submit them in their original unaltered form no later than 14 days after the completion of the fishing trip to which the log relates.
8. Transshipment by fishing vessels at sea is strictly prohibited unless otherwise approved by this Administration and conducted under the purview of the Regional Observer Program of the pertinent RFMO to which Belize subscribes. Transshipments at port shall require a request by the master at least 72-hours prior to intended transshipment. The vessel may only transship in an approved port under such conditions as specified by this Administration.
9. The license must not be tampered with, defaced, altered or destroyed in any way as specified in Section 15 of the High Seas Fishing (License) Regulation S.I. No. 33 of 2014
10. The License must be renewed 30 days prior to its expiry.
11. The license does not allow for discharge at any ports other than those specified on the License. The vessel must obtain written consent from the Director to discharge at a port that is not pre-approved.
12. The master shall allow any identified authorized officer, high seas inspector or foreign high seas inspector to board the vessel for the purpose of inspection or examination.
13. Vessel shall abide by any other supplementary authorizations granted to the vessel by this Administration.
14. Vessel shall be subject to such further terms and conditions as may be determined by the Director for High Seas Fisheries.

5.3 License validity period and renewal

A license is valid for one year from the date of issuance. Licenses may be issued for shorter periods at the discretion of the BHSFU and only under mitigating circumstances. An application for license renewal is treated in the same manner as a new application. There is no automatic right of renewal, however to avoid undue delays in renewing license an application for renewal should be submitted one month (30 days) prior to the expiration date of a current license expiration date. The renewal of a license will be

approved subject to the compliance history of the vessel and compliance with the conditions as set out in 5.2 above.

5.4 Change of Ownership

In accordance with Section 16 of the High Seas License Regulation, 2014, a licensee which is a corporate entity propose to change its shareholding or beneficial ownership shall give prior notice to the BHSFU who may agree to the issuance of new license provided that the circumstances that existed when the license was initially granted have not changed.

Where the circumstances that existed when the license was initially issued have changed, the BHSFU shall treat the notice as an application for a new license.

Where prior notice as required under paragraph 1 above is not received, the license shall be deemed automatically cancelled.

5.5 Change in Vessel Particulars

Where a vessel changes name or other important particulars of the vessel, owners/operators are required to notify IMMARBE and BHSFU respectively so that these changes can be effected on the relevant documentation such as the vessel's navigation document and fishing license.

5.6 Refusal of a License Application

The BHSFU may refuse an application for license on the grounds indicated below:

- a. The vessel is not registered or in good standing with IMMARBE;
- b. Where the vessel or its owners has a history of IUU activities;
- c. Where a vessel's previous license was suspended by another State due to contravention of international conservation and management measures;
- d. The application is not in accordance with the requirements of the Act;
- e. The owner, operator or charterer is the subject of legal proceedings or on reasonable grounds appears unable to meet its obligation;
- f. The Authority has grounds to believe that the ownership information is false or not a true representation of the beneficial ownership of the vessel;
- g. The applicant has failed to submit the required information or documentation;
- h. The vessel does not bear the required markings, inclusive of fishing gear markings;

- i. An operator or the vessel has contravened, or the vessel has committed a serious violation against the laws of Belize, or other international law(s) relating to international conservation and management measures;
- j. Vessel is not in good standing with a Regional Fisheries Management Organization;
- k. The owner fails to appoint a legal representative in Belize;
- l. The required fees or contributions or other forms of compensation have not been paid;
- m. It is determined that the issuance of a license would not be in the best interest of Belize.

5.7 Cancellation or Suspension of a License

In accordance with Section 12(1) of the High Seas (Licensing) Regulation, 2014, the Authority may suspend or cancel a license in accordance with any of the criteria specified below.

- a. Violation of any existing fishery laws, national and international;
- b. The vessel has been used in contravention of the conditions of its license or in contravention of any other applicable laws of Belize;
- c. The owner or operator is the subject of bankruptcy procedures;
- d. Provision of false, incomplete, incorrect or misleading information;
- e. Overdue payment of fees, charges, contributions and other payments;
- f. Vessel is not in good standing with IMMARBE;
- g. If the vessel has been identified as IUU in allegation of IUU or found guilty of having engaged in IUU fishing activities;
- h. Fishing in the EEZ of another State without authorization;
- i. refusal to receive inspection of the vessel and its catches or receiving an observer on board;
- j. The vessel carries out unauthorized high seas transshipments;
- k. The vessel fails to maintain active VMS;
- l. The vessel master destroys or tamper with fishing logbook and fishing license; or
- m. The vessel master fails to provide accurate catch reports in timely manner.

Items (b) above may consist of the following:

- a. fishing outside the area indicated on the license;
- b. use of destructive fishing methods;

- c. use of gear other than what is specified on the license;
- d. engaging in illegal fishing methods;
- e. non-recording of vessel's catches in the log book;
- f. failure to notify of any changes to the particulars of the vessel, including vessel owners;
- g. The owner provides fraudulent license/s from another coastal state;
- h. The vessel enters an unauthorized RFMO convention region

For items a-b under Items (b) listed above, the license will be automatically revoked upon the commission of any of these actions. In accordance with the High Seas Fishing (Sanctions) Regulation, fines and penalties may also be imposed for any and all of these violations in addition to the revocation of the license. For any other minor offences, in the first instance, a warning will be issued; in the second instance a fine will be imposed and the third violation will result in the automatic revocation of the license.

Before a license is suspended or cancelled the Director will serve notice to the license holder specifying the grounds for the suspension or cancellation of the license and will provide license holder a deadline in which to remedy the contravention that led to the suspension or cancellation or make an appeal to the decision taken. Unless otherwise stated the suspension or cancellation shall take effect on the expiry of the deadline date given in the notice.

A suspension or cancellation may be rescinded subject to a satisfactory appeal. Appeals on cancellation of vessels may be taken to the Registrar of Ships depending on the circumstances of the cancellation.

5.8 EEZ Licenses

EEZ licenses are required to be submitted for vessels that will operate in the jurisdiction of another State. These licenses are to be submitted subsequent to the issuance of the HSFL and will be verified with the relevant authorities.

5.9 Licensing of Fishing Vessels Applying for ICCAT Quotas

Vessels that wish to fish for regulated species in the ICCAT Convention Area (Atlantic Ocean region) shall submit an application for quota allocation in addition to the other

applicable documents for licensing. Additional information on quota allocation is found in our circular BHSFU-021-2017 dated 28-September-2017.

6.0 FEES

License fees and other applicable fees are set out in the relevant fee schedule. All applications shall be accompanied by a prescribed license fee which is non-refundable.

7.0 MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF LICENSED FISHING VESSELS

The owner and/or operator of all licensed fishing vessel shall ensure compliance with all MCS requirements in accordance with the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Regulation and as summarized in Annex 1 of this Policy.

8.0 RECORD OF LICENSED FISHING VESSELS

A database of all licensed fishing vessels is maintained by the BHSFU. Details of all licenses issued is provided to the FAO in accordance with the FAO Compliance Agreement. A record of the entire fishing fleet and its particulars are also provided to the FAO for inclusion into their Global Record of Fishing Vessels.

9.0 SANCTIONS

Breach of the conditions of any license issued or any violations committed against the provisions of Belize's regulations shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with the High Seas Fishing (Sanctions) Regulation, S.I. No. 32 of 2014.


10.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS


This policy does not contain the full provisions and requirements of the High Seas Fishing Act and its subsidiary Regulations and applicable circulars and notices in respect to licensing. In that regard, this policy should be treated as a guide and read in conjunction with the full requirement, noting that the Act, Regulations, circulars/notices or management plans are subject to change from time to time.

This Policy is made in accordance with Part VIII Section 50(1) of the Belize High Seas Fishing Act, 2013 and is hereby approved this 9th day of July 2018, at Belmopan, Belize


Mr. Claude B.F. Haylock
Registrar of Merchant Shipping
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize




Mrs. Valarie Lanza
Director of High Seas Fisheries
Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize



ANNEX 1**REPORTING, VESSEL MONITORING, PORT CALLS AND INSPECTIONS, TRANSshipment AND
AT SEA OBSERVER FOR LICENSED FISHING VESSELS****Vessel Reporting Requirements**

The master/operator of a licensed fishing vessel shall –

- a) complete and provide to the BHSFU, catch, effort and landing data for each particular type of activity using the prescribed format. These reports shall be submitted during and/or at the end of fishing trips or at the completion of each month.
- b) shall install on board the prescribed electronic reporting (e-log) system;
- c) shall keep on board a bonded logbook, in addition to the requirement of (b) above, to record the daily fishing operation activities.
- d) Produce landing declaration in the prescribed format no later than 48 hours after the completion of landing
- e) The Director may require such other reports in respect of any licensed fishing vessel as may be deemed necessary –
 - For fisheries conservation and management;
 - For any activity licensed under the Act or this Policy;
 - To implement or enforce the provisions of the Act or fisheries management agreements.

Port Calls

A licensed fishing vessel shall make a port call for the purposes of inspection at a designed port at the commencement of each license period.

Port calls referred to above shall be: -

- a. Made for the purpose of inspection by an authorized officer to determine compliance with relevant national and international regulations.
- b. Made for the purpose of inspecting discharges of fisheries products

A vessel which carries out transshipment at sea under a Regional Observer Program shall make no less than one port call per year at a designated port in addition to the port call at the beginning of any license period.

Port Inspections

The landing of all fisheries products shall be inspected at port by an authorized fisheries inspector and/or competent authority of the port. Port Inspections shall be carried out in accordance with our National Inspection Policy,

Vessel Monitoring System

All vessels licensed to fish or carry out fishing related activities under the Belize flag shall be required to have an operational VMS on board. It shall be the responsibility of the operator to pay for the cost of such equipment, installation and operation. The satellite devices for the VMS shall only be obtained from the authorized providers approved by Belize.

A vessel shall not leave port without its VMS fully installed and operational.

When a vessel is in port, it shall maintain its unit operational and may only be switched off upon prior written authorization from the Fisheries Monitoring Center.

Transshipments

Transshipments at sea are prohibited and shall only be allowed subject to authorization at a designated port under the control and inspection of the competent authority of that port State and/or an authorized fisheries inspector of Belize.

Transshipments at sea regulated by a Regional Fisheries Management Organization may be approved at the discretion of the Director.

At Sea Observer for Fishing Vessels

Fishing vessels are strategically selected for observer coverage. This strategy includes conducting annual evaluation of vessels' compliance and analyzing the risk of each vessel's vulnerability for committing infractions. This analysis considers the following criteria:

- Compliance with National Regulations
- Compliance with international/RFMO Regulations
- Compliance with Catch Reporting Requirements
- Compliance with VMS Requirements
- Compliance with Licensing Requirements
- Compliance with Financial Obligations
- Compliance with Requirements for Discharge Inspection and Observer Coverage.

A vessel selected for an observation is required to meet the national and international minimum requirements for the safety, accommodation, sanitary facilities, meals, equipment and communication systems equal to those afforded to an officer so that the observer duties are not compromised.

Before placing any observer on a vessel, the Coordinator for the Observer Program shall give the owners and/or operators reasonable notice of intention to place observer on the vessel and of its responsibility for the observer while they are on board.

Markings of Vessels

The marking of fishing vessels shall be consistent with the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking of Identification of Fishing Vessels.

Markings of Gear

Fishing gears shall be marked so as to identify:

- a. Its ownership; or
- b. The vessel in conjunction with which it is used; or
- c. Its location

Detailed information on reporting, vessel monitoring, port calls, transshipments and at sea observer coverage may be found in our High Seas Fishing (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) Regulations.