

Fishing Vessel Circular Letter No. 047
19 June 2023
Series: GEN-2023

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

Subject: **Provision of Vessel Ownership Information and Relevant Documentation**

Reference: Issued in accordance with Part VIII, Section 50(1)(c) of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013

Circular Superseded: FVC-13/05 – Ownership Verification for Fishing Vessels
FVC-10/02 – Provision of the Physical Address of the Bona-fide Owners and Operators of Fishing Vessels and other Vessels Engaged in Fishing Related Activities

BACKGROUND:

Concerned that the complete and accurate physical address and contact information of the genuine owners and operators of fishing vessels are not being provided, this Administration has chosen to implement this circular to ensure that owners and operators are aware of the obligation for such disclosure.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY BELIZE

The full name, address, and contact information for the owners and operators must be submitted, as required by Section 3 of the Application for High Seas Fishing Licenses. Addresses for IBCs and offshore businesses are unacceptable. It is necessary to provide the company's genuine physical address for the owners and operators. Addresses of the vessel's representatives, attorneys, or agents are unacceptable. The owning company's physical address and precise location must be disclosed. The application will be postponed until the right information is provided if we determine that the ownership of the owning company information provided is inaccurate or lacking.

Along with the Application for High Seas Fishing Licenses, ownership documentation must be presented as an additional safeguard to ensure the accuracy of the information provided. The Application form contains a list of these documents, which are also listed in Annex 1 of this Circular.

APPLICABILITY

This circular applies to all fishing vessels engaged in fishing or fishing related activities intending to operate under the Belize flag.

MAINTENANCE

Stakeholders shall ensure that this Circular is acknowledged and observed.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with any Circular shall result in disciplinary actions taken in accordance with Belize's Sanction Regulations S.I. 32 of 2014

IMPLEMENTATION

This Circular shall be implemented with immediate effect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information direct all inquiries about this Circular to the Director of High Seas Fisheries of the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize.

Issued by



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Annex 1

DOCUMENTS TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FORM

You should include with your application the following:

- The vessel's current certificate of registration
- For vessels which will operate in the EEZ of another State, a valid license or permit issued by that State(s)
- Signed Statutory Declaration appointing a nominee or authorized representatives.
- Annual fishing schedule as per prescribed form.
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OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

Depending on the type of ownership the following documents shall be submitted.

A. Individual Owners

- The name of the bona-fide physical permanent address of the owner
- National identification card, passport, or other similar identification in addition to documentation showing physical address.

B. Corporate Owners

- 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 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 is 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 which clearly states permanent physical address of the company.

C. Partnership/Unincorporated Business

- In case of local limited partnerships:
 - a. a copy of the certified registration
 - b. certificate of good standing certified by the registrar of companies
- In the case of unincorporated business
 - a. evidence of the identity of a majority of the partners, owners or managers and authorized signatories
 - b. a copy of the mandate from the partnership or unincorporated business authorizing the establishment of the business relationship and confirmation of any authorized signatories.