

Fishing Vessel Circular Letter No. 048
19 June 2023
Series: GEN-2023

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

Subject: **FISHING LOGBOOKS**

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

Circular Superseded: FVC-07/2011 – Fishing Logbook System
FVC-12/07 – Electronic Catch and Effort Reporting Software and Upgrade of Vessel Monitoring System

BACKGROUND:

Logbooks are frequently used to gather statistical data about commercial fishing activities and are records of catch and effort registered at the time of the catch operation. These records can be in electronic or book format. The monitoring of commercial fishing activities is an essential aspect of control and the need to maintain precise records of fishing operations in the form of logbooks has now become a mandatory requirement.

Logbooks have two equally important functions:

- a. It serves as a tool for enforcing fishing laws and ensuring adherence to resource management measures.
- b. As a method for gathering basic fishery statistics and as a principal source for data on fishing inputs and outputs

MEASURES ADOPTED BY BELIZE

There are two forms of logbooks utilization that has been adopted by Belize.

1. Manual Logbook

All fishing vessels flying the Belize flag that are engaged in fishing activities must have a manual logbook. These logbooks are assigned at the time a fishing license is issued and annually thereafter at the beginning of each year. It is the responsibility of the vessel owners, operators and/or representatives to ensure that this book is dispatched to the vessel. The utilization of this logbook shall commence immediately upon receipt on board.

The logbook includes all the information that the vessel master must complete. All entries must be short and concise, and the master must initial any changes. The logbook contains all the instructions for its proper and mandatory completion. Regardless of when the logbook was

acquired, it must be retained on the ship for a full calendar year and returned to the administration at the conclusion of the year.

2. Electronic Logbook

The continuous demand for real time statistical information has predicated the necessity for the implementation of an electronic reporting system. Such a system will enable the transmission of catch and effort data in a consistent, timely and accurate manner. As a result, we have implemented an electronic catch reporting system established as part of our vessel monitoring platform. To provide real-time catch and effort statistics, all vessels must now be outfitted with a Skywave IDP 690 combined with TreqVM data terminal. Operators are urged to use this system to transmit their data.

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

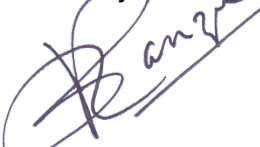
IMPLEMENTATION

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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