

Fishing Vessel Circular Letter No. 051

27 October 2023

Series: GEN-2023

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

Subject: Requirements for Bareboat Charter Registration of Belize Flagged Fishing Vessels

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

Circular Superseded: FVC-10/2015

BACKGROUND:

Enforcing rules and regulations that promote effective conservation and management strategies for sustainable fisheries primarily involves effective monitoring, control, and surveillance to discourage and/or eradicate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices. Although the vessel will operate under another jurisdiction it is important for its mother flag to maintain oversight and ensure compliance with international maritime and fisheries regulations. This ensures that the vessel upholds safety standards and operates in a responsible manner, regardless of the jurisdiction under which it will operate. Additionally, maintaining oversight helps to protect the reputation of the mother flag.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY BELIZE

Fishing vessels registered under Belize flag and chartered to another registry are still required to comply with Belize's regulations governing charter out vessels, which are as follows:

- The vessel immediately after obtaining its Bareboat Charter Letter from IMMARBE must obtain from the BHSFU a certificate stating, inter-alia that the vessel operates under the monitoring, control, and surveillance of the BHSFU and in accordance with Belize's national laws and regulations.
- The vessel must obtain and maintain an active vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard that reports directly to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU).
- The vessel must report catch data to Belize on a quarterly basis.
- The vessel must pay an annual monitoring, control, and surveillance fee to the BSHFU.
- The vessel must maintain compliance with any other applicable request made by the BHSFU regarding its operations.

APPLICABILITY

This circular applies to all Belize flagged vessels under a bareboat charter out registration.

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 forthwith.

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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