

**Fishing Vessel Circular Letter No. 060**  
**08 December 2023**  
**Series: GEN-2023**

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

Subject: **ISSUANCE OF FISHING AUTHORIZATION TO VESSELS WHICH OPERATE IN THE EEZ OF OTHER STATES**

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

Circular Superseded: FVC-014/2016, Issued 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **BACKGROUND**

Any vessel owner/operator who intends to operate their vessel in the EEZ of another state must ensure that they obtain the proper authorization from that state. Obtaining an EEZ license is crucial for resource management, sovereignty, economic benefits, environmental protection, and international relations.

Concerned that the relevant approval and authorizations are not being obtained or reported from the countries in whose EEZs our vessels operate and that renewals of these authorizations are not being submitted in a timely manner, this administration has decided to implement measures to facilitate the efficient and timely submission of all EEZ licenses and authorizations.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATION IN THE EEZ OF ANOTHER STATE**

1. All Belize flagged fishing vessels intending to operate in the high seas or in the EEZ of another State are required to obtain a High Seas Fishing License which will be conditioned for high seas operations exclusively.
2. All fishing operations that will take place in the EEZ of another state will be subject to the submission of a license or authorization from that state.

3. No vessel shall operate in any EEZ state unless a valid authorization from that state is obtained and submitted to the BHSFU.
4. Any approval granted by this administration to operate in the EEZ of another state will be considered null and void once said license or authorization issued by that state has expired.
5. Owners/operators are responsible to ensure that all licenses and authorizations issued by the EEZ state where they operate are renewed on a timely basis and that all renewals are submitted to BHSFU.
6. The BHSFU will be responsible for confirming the validity and authenticity of any license or authorization issued by another state before it grants approval to a vessel to operate in that EEZ. This authorization will be provided to the owners/operators via an official email and will carry no additional charge.
7. Failure to notify the BHSFU that a vessel will operate in the EEZ of another state and the timely submission of licenses or authorizations granted or renewed will be considered a direct violation of this circular and our HSFA, 2013 and could result in disciplinary actions.

### **APPLICABILITY**

Circulars setting out mandatory requirements shall be construed to have the same effect and applicability of rules and policies under the provisions of the HSFA 2013. Each circular is applicable to all Belize flagged fishing vessels engaged in fishing and related activities. The owner, operator and master of every Belize flagged fishing vessel shall be familiar with all applicable Circulars applying to their vessel and it shall be no defense that any person in breach of any Circular was not aware of it or has not been advised of it.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Ship owners, and operators shall ensure that all Circulars are disseminated to their master and crew as well as any other person affected by or having an interest in the subject matter in a language understood by all. A Circular once issued shall be disseminated electronically to all stakeholders and a listing of ALL Circulars shall be published on the BHSFU website [www.bhsfu.gov.bz](http://www.bhsfu.gov.bz) for future reference.

### **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 take effect immediately.

## 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.

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Issued by

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