

IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

MARKING OF FISHING VESSELS

TO ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, RESIDENT AGENTS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS & CLASS SOCIETIES.

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Fishing Vessel Notice is to provide all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrars and other parties with requirements and the technical specification of the markings for identification purposes to be placed on Belize-registered Fishing Vessels.

2. BACKGROUND

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries noted that there was a need for an international standard system for the marking and identification of fishing vessels operating, or likely to operate, in waters of States other than those of the flag State as an aid to fisheries management and safety at sea. The FAO recommended that fishing vessels should be appropriately marked for their identification on the basis of the International Telecommunication Union Radio Call Signs (IRCS) system.

In this connection our Administration has decided to implement the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels as well as the relevant Resolutions/Recommendations of Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMOs) on this topic.

3. APPLICATION

This Fishing Vessel Notice applies to **all Belize-registered Fishing Vessels** with immediate effect.

4. MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISHING VESSELS

4.1. For the purpose of these markings specifications:

- a) The word “vessel” also includes a boat, skiff or craft (excluding aircraft) carried on board the vessel and which is used for fishing operations;
- b) A deck is any surface lying in the horizontal plane, including the top of the wheelhouse;
- c) A Call Sign is the one assigned by our Administration to each vessel and which begins with the prefix V3 and is followed by two or three letters or a combination of number and letters.

4.2. Apart from the vessel’s name or identification marks and the Port of Registry (BELIZE) required by international practice and our national legislation, the marking system as specified shall, in order to avoid confusion, be the only other vessel identification marks consisting of letters and numbers to be painted on the hull or superstructure.

4.3. The markings on the vessel shall be prominently displayed at all times, as follows:

- 4.3.1. On the vessel’s side or superstructure, port and starboard; fixtures inclined at an angle to the vessel’s side or superstructure would be considered as suitable provided that the angle of inclination would not prevent sighting of the sign from another vessel or from the air;
- 4.3.2. On the uppermost deck. Should an awning or other temporary cover be placed so as to obscure the mark on a deck, the awning or cover shall also be marked. These marks should be placed athwartships with the top of the numbers or letters towards the bow.
- 4.3.3. Shall be placed as high as possible above the waterline on both sides. Such parts of the hull as the flare of the bow and the stern shall be avoided.
- 4.3.4. Shall be so placed that they are not obscured by the fishing gear whether it is stowed or in use.
- 4.3.5. Shall be clear of flow from scuppers or overboard discharges including areas which might be prone to damage or discolouration from the catch of certain types of species; and.
- 4.3.6. Shall not extend below the waterline.
- 4.3.7. On undecked vessels it shall be required to fit a board on which the markings may be clearly seen from the air.
- 4.3.8. Boats, skiffs and craft carried by the vessel for fishing operations shall bear the same mark as the vessel concerned.

4.4. The Technical specifications and examples of the placement of marks are set out in Annex I.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

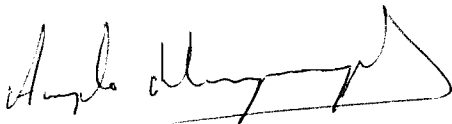
The above-detailed measures must be implemented forthwith; therefore, owners and operators of Belize-registered Fishing Vessels are required to send to our Administration a completed copy of the ANNEX II for each of your vessels. We will then inform the Secretariats of the relevant RFMOs of your vessel's compliance.

6. INSPECTIONS

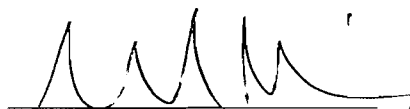
All Belize registered fishing vessels may be inspected by any of our Flag State Inspectors or Fishing Vessel Observers with or without prior notice. Also, the Resolutions/Recommendations of the RFMOs permit the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels by authorized inspectors of other member States of the RFMO.

7. SURVEYS

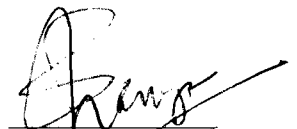
Recognized Organizations and Class Societies are required to verify compliance with these regulations during the renewal, annual, occasional, additional or periodical surveys related to the Fishing Vessel Safety Certificate.



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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE
"IMMARBE"

ANNEX II

CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FISHING VESSELS CIRCULAR FVC-08/02

VESSEL NAME: _____
CALL SIGN: _____

This to confirm that the above-mentioned vessel has been marked in accordance with the requirements and specifications detailed in the Fishing Vessels Circular FVC-08/02.

Signature: _____
For or on behalf of vessel's owners

DATE: _____

Name of Company

Name of Signatory

Position