



IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

GUIDELINES FOR VESSELS WHICH CARRY OUT TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES

TO ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, AND RESIDENT AGENTS

FVC Superseded:

FVC-08/05

Revision No.: 1

Revision Date: 13th May 2009

ISSUE DATE:

18th November 2008

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Fishing Vessel Circular is to provide guidelines to owners and operators with vessels which wish to engage in transshipment activities on the High Seas or the EEZs of other States.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Concerned that the relevant authorizations and notification regarding transshipment activities by vessels which are licensed to do so are not being requested/submitted as applicable, our Administration has decided to implement FVC-08/05 to assist owners in following the guidelines and requirements for transshipments.

3. APPLICATION

- 3.1. This Fishing Vessel Circular applies to all Belize registered fishing vessels engaged in transshipment activities on the High Seas or the EEZ of other States.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS

- 4.1 At the time of registration, the Owners are required to declare if their vessel will be engaged in the carriage for marine resources. If they state that they will not do so, then they are required to submit a "Letter of Guarantee" to this effect.

- 4.2 If, however, they will engage in the carriage of marine resources at any time during their registration with us, they are required to comply with the requirements of our High Seas Fishing Act, which inter alia, requires that they obtain a High Seas Fishing License (HSFL), install and maintain a functional vessel monitoring system and submit the required transshipment declaration forms per transshipment activities carried out. With respect to the HSFL, it specifically forbids the transportation of species which are a regulated resource of the RFMO of the authorized area of operation without prior authorization from that RFMO as well as Belize- the Flag State.

TRANSHIPMENT IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA

- 4.3 For vessels that intends to engage in transshipment activities in the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Area (NEAFC), the Owners are obligated to submit an application to us for an Authorization to do so at least 48 hours in advance of each transshipment, giving full details of the species, quantities, details of the fishing vessels, intended place of transshipment and intended port of landing.
- 4.4 After receipt of the abovementioned request and information, our Administration will proceed to carry out a background check of the fishing vessel(s) named in the application in order to ensure that they are not listed on the IUU List of Vessels of any RFMO, that they are on the NEAFC's List of Authorized Vessels, that the Flag State of the fishing vessel(s) confirms that they have sufficient quota for the species to be transhipped.
- 4.5 Provided that the above checks are satisfactory, we will issue to the Owner/Operators a "Letter of Authorization to Transport/Transship" and inform the NEAFC of the intended transshipment, giving them a copy of this Authorization.
- 4.6 The relative fee for the issuance of the Letter of Authorization to Transport/Transship is dependent on whether the transshipment activities will be conducted on the High Seas of the regulated area of NEAFC or the EEZ of a Member State of NEAFC.
- 4.7 The Master of the Belize registered transshipment vessel is required to submit to us the relevant Port State Control Form – PSC 2 duly completed – a separate form is issued in respect of the transshipment from each fishing vessel. We will complete Part B of each form and return it to the Master of the refrigerated cargo vessel for submission to the relevant Port State 24 hours in advance of any landing.
- 4.8 After the landing the Master is required to submit to us our "Transshipment Declaration Form" detailing the information of their transshipment activity.
- 4.9 For your guidance, no transshipment activity in the NEAFC should be carried out until the Letter of Authorization has been issued by our Administration and the relative fees for such issuance have been submitted.

TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA

- 4.10 Vessels intending to carry out transshipment activities in the Convention Area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) must ensure that they only receive at-sea transshipment of ICCAT Species (Tuna and tuna like species) from vessels that are flagged by countries that are Members of ICCAT.
- 4.11 All transshipment activities of tuna and tuna like species must occur at port unless otherwise authorized by us.
- 4.12 If the vessel intends to engage in transshipment activities in this Area they must inform us immediately upon registration or obtainment of their HSFL so that their vessel can be placed on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels. Carrier vessels not entered on the record will be deemed not authorized to receive tuna and tuna like species in transshipment operations.
- 4.13 Transshipments in waters under the jurisdiction of the Members of ICCAT are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned
- 4.14 The Master of the vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT Transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and to us as Flag State, along with its number in the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT Area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.
- 4.15 The Master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 28 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT Transshipment Declaration Form, along with its number in the ICCAT Record of Vessels Authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing will take place.
- 4.16 Transshipment of species NOT regulated by this Commission can be conducted without restriction. However, details of any transshipment activities should be reported to us on the Transshipment Declaration Form.

TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE IOTC AREA

- 4.17 Transshipment in waters under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party are subject to prior authorization from the Coastal State concerned.
- 4.18 Vessels are not authorized to transship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their Flag State (Belize)
- 4.19 To receive prior authorization mentioned in 4.18 above, the master and/or owners of the LSTLV must notify the following information to IMMARBE at least 24 hours in advance of an intended transshipment.
- a) Name of the fishing vessels and its number in the IOTC Record of Vessels

- b) The name of the carrier vessel and its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the IOTC area and the product to be transshipped,
- c) The tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- d) The date and location of transshipment
- e) The geographic location of the tuna catches

4.20 The owner/operator/master shall complete and transmit to IMMARBE, no later than 15 days after the transshipment, the IOTC Transshipment Declaration Form, along with its number in the IOTC Record of fishing vessels.

4.21 Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with the procedures detailed below

Prior to transshipping, the captain of the fishing vessels must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance.

- a) The name of the fishing vessel and its number in the IOTC record of fishing vessels,
- b) The name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transshipped,
- c) The tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- d) The date and location of transshipment
- e) The major fishing grounds of the tuna and tuna like species catches.

The captain of the fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform IMMARBE of the following

- a) The product and quantities involved
- b) The date and place of the transshipment
- c) The name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel
- d) The geographic location of the tuna and tuna like species catches.

4.22 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to IMMARBE the IOTC Transshipment Declaration along with its number in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels no later than 15 days after the transshipment

TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES IN OTHER RFMOs

4.23 Vessels intending to engage in transshipment activities in other RFMO areas other than ICCAT NEAFC and IOTC are also required to comply with the requirements of our HSFA in obtaining a HSFL, installing and maintaining a functional VMS and submitting the relevant transshipment declaration reports. However, as stipulated on the HSFL, the vessel shall not transport species which are a regulated resource of the RFMO of the authorized area without prior authorization from that RFMO and the Flag State and that only species caught by non-IUU Fishing Vessels can be transported.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NOTICE

5.1 This Fishing Vessel Circular supersedes FVC 08/05 is to be implemented forthwith. The conditions of this Circular are subject to change without notice depending on the regulations of the RFMOs.

Valerie Lanza
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Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to:

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