



Maritime Circular No.43

To:

Ship-Owners / Managers / Operators /Charterers, Flag Safety Inspectors, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Organisations (ROs), SLMARAD Departments (All)

Subject:

Prohibition of Sierra Leone flagged Cargo and Reefer Vessels to transport Fish and Fishery Products outside Sierra Leone Waters

Date:

03rd June 2022

References:

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended (Reg. I/2 (i))

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1993 FAO Compliance Agreement

1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement

International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), 2001

Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), 2016

Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 Of The European Parliament and of the Council, 2017

Purpose

To inform Ship-Owners/ Managers/ Operators, Flag Safety Inspectors, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Organisations (ROs) about the forbidden activities / operations related to the transportation of fish or fishery products.

Application

1. As per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations / Fisheries and Aquaculture Department any ship, boat or other type of vessel used, equipped to be used or designed to be used for fishing and fishing related activities as any operation in support of, or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish that have not been previously landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel must comply with the requirements of a fishing vessel and guidelines of UN.
2. International instruments / regulations against illegal fishing:
 - a. *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS)*; provides the international legal basis for the protection and use of living and non-living resources of the world's oceans.
 - b. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*; plays a leading role in international fisheries policy.

- c. *1993 FAO Compliance Agreement*; aims to enhance the role of flag states to ensure that none of their vessels are fishing on the high seas, unless authorized.
 - d. *1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement*; aims to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks within the framework of UNCLOS.
 - e. *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU)*; focus on all State responsibilities, flag State responsibilities, coastal State measures, port State measures, internationally agreed market-related measures, research and regional fisheries management organizations.
 - f. *Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), 2016*; first international binding agreement to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) which is against national laws and international obligations.
 - g. *Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 Of the European Parliament and of the Council, 2017*; concerning sustainable management of external fishing fleets
3. Based on the decisions taken by the Government of Sierra Leone and in line with the international instruments and regulations against illegal fishing, Ship-Owners / Managers / Operators / Charterers, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Organisations (ROs), Masters, Crew members are discouraged to participate in the transportation of fish or fishery products or participate in activities in support of fishing operations.
 4. In light of the above, this Administration hereby **prohibits** all Sierra Leonean vessels from engaging in any operation in support of, or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish and fishery products as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea outside the EEZ of Sierra Leone.

Appointed Flag Safety Inspectors shall confirm that SL fleet complies with this Maritime Circular during their attendance onboard. If a vessel is not in compliance with this Maritime Circular, the appointed inspector shall inform the Administration immediately to take all necessary actions.
 5. Should any Sierra Leonean Vessel engage in any of the operations mentioned above, this will result to her **immediate removal from the Registry** and imposition of a fine as per Maritime Circular No.11.
 6. For additional information please contact SLMARAD at info@slmarad.com

Revision Status

Date	Revision	Comments - Changes
22/05/2020	0	Initial - Adopted
03/06/2021	1	Amended Paragraph 3, Added Paragraph 5