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**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

L.D.B. 1/2012(II)

**THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 2 OF 1996**

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development under Section 61(1)(t) of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 read with Sections 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 14E, 14F, 14G, 14H, 14I, 14J, 14K, 14L, 14M and 14N of that Act.

MAHINDA AMARAWEEERA,  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Development.

Colombo,  
30th November 2015.

**Regulations**

The High Seas Fishing Operations Regulations No. 1 of 2014 published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 1878/12 of September 01, 2014 are hereby amended as follows :-

(1) in regulation 4 of that regulation -

(i) by the substitution in item (vi) thereof for the words “Sea Birds and Tag Species” of the words “Sea Birds” ;

(ii) by the substitution for item (xi) thereof, of the following new item :-

“(xi) Fins of any shark species permitted to catch under a licence, shall not be kept on board unless such fins are naturally attached to the body of such shark.”

(iii) by the addition, immediately after item (xii) thereof, of the following new item :-



“(xiii) VHF radio installation together with HF/MF (SSB) radio communication unit shall be intalled and maintained in accordance with the provision of regulation 162 of Fishing Boats Safety (Design, Construction and Equipment) Regulations, 2009 published in Gazette Extraordinaty No. 1600/13 of May 05, 2009. International Radio call signs issued by the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission shall be clearly marked on both sides of the boat as specified in the Schedule V hereto ;

Provided however, the provisions of this paragraph shall be applicable to boats having a length more than twenty four meters.

(xiv) Fire extinguishers shall be taken on board in accordance with regulations 105, 106 and 107 of Fishing Boats Safety (Design, Construction and Equipment) Regulations 2009 ;

Provided however, the proviosions of this paragraph shall be applicable to bosts having a length more than twenty four meters.

(xv) Unauthorized fishing gears shall not be taken on board of the boat.

(xvi) Number of life jackets equivalent to the number of crew on board shall be stocked on board in accordance with Local Fishing Boats (Life Jackets) Regulation 2008 published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1570/32 of October 09, 2008. These shall be worn by the members of crew at an emergency.

(xvii) Fishing gears shall be marked in accordance with the Fishing Gear Marking Regulations No. 01 of 2015 published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1904/10 of March 03, 2015.

(xviii) Satelite based Vessel Monitoring System equipment approved by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall be installed in the boat to link with the land based fisheries monitoring center at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource in accordance with the implementation of Satelite based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for Fishing Boats Operating in High Seas Regulations 2015 published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1904/47 of March 26 2015.

(xix) De-hookers, line cutter and, dip nets shall be taken on board by the long liners and purse-seiners respectively in order to release prohibited fish species and aquatic animals.

(xx) A scientific observer nominated by the Director General shall be deployed for each boat having a length more than twenty four meters and the boat owner shall essentially provide facilities required by the observer similar to that provided to the master of the boat until completion of the fishing operation ;

Provided however, the Director General may deploy a scientific observer to any boat having a length of less than twenty four meters taking into consideration the type of facilities available in such boasts

(2) by the addition of the following new regulation immediately after regulations 5 of that regulation :

“5A. No person who operates in the high seas shall transship fish to any other boat at sea or any port without the prior written approval of the Director-General”.

(3) In regulation 6, by the addition of the following expressions immediately after the definition of the expression “Holder of License” :-

“Scientific observer” means a person who has undergone special training regarding scientific data collection in accordance with the resolution No. 11/04 of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and authorized by the Director General for that purpose and registered with Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or any regional Fisheries Management Organization.;

“unauthorized fishing gear” means any fishing gear which is not permitted by the Director General under this regulation ;

(4) by the addition of Schedule V immediately after Schedule IV thereof :-

#### SCHEDULE V

INTERNATIONAL RADIO CALL SIGN (ICRS) DISPLAY AS PER GIVEN BELOW

Example :



Specifications of letters/number (size) - FAO standard specification for the marking and identifications of the boat.

<i>Length of boat overall (LOA) in meters</i>	<i>Height of letters and numbers in meters (m) to be not less than</i>
25m and over	1.0m
20m and over but less than 25m	0.8m
15m and over but less than 20m	0.6m
12m and over but less than 15m	0.4m
5m and over but less than 12m	0.3m
under 5m	0.1m

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