



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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November 5, 2014

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
ATTN: Professor Glenn Hurry, Exec. Director
Kaselehli Street
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia
Pohnpei, FM 96941

RE: Liberia's Application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Status

Dear Professor Hurry,

This letter is in furtherance to Liberia's Application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Status dated July 24, 2014 and submitted on August 20, 2014. We would like to submit the following supplemental information for your consideration.

Liberia is the second largest maritime administration in the world, with over 12% of vessels engaged in international trade. We have developed a high quality shipping registry with white list status on all major port state control regimes. We have attained this status by having strictly followed procedures and rules—all of which are ISO 9001 certified by the British Standards Institution (BSI). Our newly established transshipment program is no different: we leverage our 400 worldwide inspectors and auditors for required annual inspections, have a required Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program through CLS America, and require that transshipment records be kept and sent to us for Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) reporting. More information about each is described below.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

We have an established VMS requirement for all vessels that engage in transshipment through our transshipment licensing/authorization program. When a vessel applies for a transshipment license, it is then sent an Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) in the form of a VMS Thorium kit (including a tablet), sent directly from our office in Virginia, USA. We source our VMS through CLS America. Each vessel is required to install the ALC which we inspect to ensure that the equipment is working properly. Each ALC also has a unique identifier, gives the current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel, and the date and time. The necessary data is transmitted to RFMOs within 60-90 minutes of being generated and to us and stored on our secure server.

Similarly, each vessel is given a tablet which acts as a transshipment logbook and is used to send transshipment reports. Again, these reports are stored on our server and reported directly to the respective RFMOs.

Competent Authority/Contact Points

The Liberian Registry has 17 offices around the world and nearly 400 flag state inspectors at all major shipping ports—at least 106 of these inspectors are located in the countries of the WCPFC Contracting Parties. The head office of the Registry is in Vienna, Virginia, USA, which is where we operate our Flag State Monitoring Center for vessels engaged in transshipment activities. However, we also have full-service offices in London, Hamburg and Piraeus. Last, we have a 24/7 duty officer on call to handle all flag state issues, including transshipment issues.

Upon an emergency, you can call the duty officer or the person listed below. If necessary, they will deploy necessary resources which could include someone from one of our regional offices or a flag state inspector. These individuals will assist the national authority and represent the flag state.

For your further information, we preliminarily supply you with the following two main emergency contacts:

24/7 Duty Officer: +1 703 963-6216 (main point of contact in case of emergency)

Vienna, Virginia Office — Michael Davies, VP Investigations (Head of transshipment program)
(+1 703 251-2407)

Liberian Registry, Fisheries Monitoring Centre
8619 Westwood Center Dr. #300
Vienna, VA 22182
USA

Inspection/Boarding Issues

If one of our vessels is inspected and an infringement is found, the Liberian Registry, as Flag State, has the authority to send a vessel to port pursuant to Liberian Maritime Regulations (RLM-108). Regulations are made by the Commissioner of Liberia Maritime Authority under the powers conferred upon him by section 11 of Chapter 1 of Title 21 of the Laws of The Republic of Liberia (the Maritime Law) and approved as required by that section and having effect from June 19, 2002. Specifically with respect to sending a vessel to a specific port, this authority is given in RLM-108, section 1.40(1) Control of Movement and Operation of Vessels, Authority of Commissioner:

The Commissioner of Liberia Maritime Authority may when necessary prohibit or place restrictions upon the movement or operations of vessels. The location of the area and/or nature of such prohibition or restrictions shall be officially notified in writing to all Masters, vessel owners and officers affected thereby, and effective upon the date specified in such notice of prohibition or restriction, it shall be unlawful to navigate or operate a Liberian vessel otherwise than as required by such notice...

We will also act to ensure that vessels are inspected at sea and in ports, as foreseen by the WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures (Conservation and Management Measure 2006-08). This authority is given to us under RLM-108, section 7.191(2) Marine Safety Inspections, Responsibility of Owners and Operators of Liberian Vessels. We also have the authority to ensure cooperation in marine investigations, under RLM-108, section 9.258(2) Maritime Investigations, Duties of Owners of Liberian Vessels.

ISO 9001 and Future Plans

We also want to mention that the Liberian Registry has a Quality Management System (QMS) that is ISO 9001 certified through the British Standards Institution (BSI). This ensures that we maintain a quality transshipment program with strict procedures that are followed by our office and our ships, all of which are independently and externally audited each year.

Request to Consider and Re-evaluate

Thank you for this chance to highlight our transshipment program, and provide you with the procedures and policies we have in place to ensure our ships remain in compliance with WCPFC's conservation and management measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Ansumana', written over a printed name.

Margaret Ansumana
Deputy Commissioner
Liberia Maritime Affairs

File Message

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AHTG To Manager Team E-mail Done Reply & Delete Create New Quick Steps

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Follow up. Start by Thursday, November 06, 2014. Due by Thursday, November 06, 2014.

From: Ruphene Sidifall <RSidifall@liscr.com> Sent: Thu 11/6/2014 3:14 AM
 To: Lara Manarangi-Trott
 Cc: Ana Taholo; Michael Davies; Lara Manarangi-Trott; Christian Mollitor
 Subject: RE: Liberia's Application or Cooperating Status

Message WCPFC Letter_Supplemental.pdf (161 KB)

Dear Lara:

I hope all is well. I have attached some supplemental information regarding our application for the Commission's consideration. Please feel to contact us should you have any questions/concerns. Thank you for your assistance. Have a wonderful evening.

Best regards,

Ruphene

From: Lara Manarangi-Trott [<mailto:Lara.Manarangi-Trott@wcpfc.int>]
Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 7:56 PM
To: Ruphene Sidifall
Cc: Michael Davies
Subject: RE: Liberia's Application or Cooperating Status

Hi Ruphene,

Just to confirm that we will be writing to all Cooperating Non-Member applicants during this week to confirm the outcomes of the recent TCC meeting, related to Cooperating Non-member requests

Ruphene Sidifall

All Items Request for Participation in WCPFC11 Meeting 2:09 AM 11/5/2014

RE: Liberia's Application or Cooperating Status 1:05 AM 11/5/2014