

F.No.21002/12/2011-FY(Ind)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

**ORDER**

The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries being the nodal Department for developing fisheries in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) vide Entry 57 list 1 of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution in exercise of the powers conferred orders hereunder prescribe the new Guidelines for conduct of fishing operation in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. The guidelines will be binding on all deep-sea fishing vessels operating in the Indian EEZ from the date of issue of this order. The earlier Guidelines prescribed in above regard by this Department are rescinded herewith.



(Dr. Raja Sekhar Vundru )  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

(डा. राजा शेखर वुन्दरु)  
( DR. RAJA SEKHAR VUNDRU )  
संयुक्त सचिव/Joint Secretary  
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India  
पशु पालन डेयरी और मत्स्य पालन विभाग  
D/o Animal Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries  
कृषि मंत्रालय/Ministry of Agriculture  
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

**Distribution:**

- (i) Members of the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries
- (ii) Secretaries in-charge of Fisheries of all coastal States/UTs
- (iii) Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
- (iv) Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice
- (v) Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (vi) Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs,
- (vii) DG, ICAR
- (viii) CE, NFDB
- (ix) President, All India Association of Deep Sea Fisheries
- (x) Secretary, Fishing Trawlers and Allied Industries Owner's Welfare Association
- (xi) All Deep Sea fishing vessel operator companies
- (xii) NIC, DAHDF, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi [with request for posting the above Guidelines in the website of this Department].

**GUIDELINES FOR FISHING OPERATIONS IN INDIAN  
EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE, 2014**

## DEFINITIONS

S.No.	Item	Definitions
1.	EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone of India which is upto 200 nautical miles from the shore line and beyond & adjacent territorial water which comes under the jurisdiction of Union Government
2.	Deep Sea Fishing	Fishing activities beyond 12 nautical miles from the shore line (Territorial waters)
3.	Deep Sea Fishing Vessels	Fishing vessels of 15 meter overall length (OAL) and above or any resource specific vessel or any vessel fit for deep sea operations
4.	Operator	Any Indian citizen; Indian entrepreneur; Partnership Firm; Private Ltd. company; Public Ltd. Company; joint venture company (at least 51% Indian equity) and Corporation; Registered cooperative society.
5.	CCRF	The code of conduct for responsible fisheries circulated by the FAO of the United Nations
6.	IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

## **Guidelines for operation of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels in Indian EEZ, 2014**

The Constitution of India empowers the Central Government in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries on Fishing and Fisheries beyond the Territorial waters vide Entry 57, List I, Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 in Section 7 further empowers the Central Government with sovereign rights in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India, for the purpose of exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the natural resources, including fishery resources; exclusive jurisdiction to authorise, regulate and control scientific research exclusive jurisdiction to preserve and protect the marine environment and to prevent and control marine pollution; and such other rights as are recognised by International Law. Further, no person (including a foreign Government) shall, except under, and in accordance with, the terms of any agreement with the Central Government or of a licence or a letter of authority granted by the Central Government, explore or exploit any resources of the exclusive economic zone or carry out any search or excavation or conduct any research within the exclusive economic zone or drill therein or construct, maintain or operate any artificial island, off-shore terminal, installation or other structure or device therein for any purpose whatsoever:

The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 allows any Indian citizen to fish in EEZ. The Act further makes India also responsible for the conservation and management of natural resources including fishery resources. In accordance to such responsibility the Central government regulates fishing operations in the EEZ through guidelines for fishing operations. The guidelines have been revised to create an enabling environment for fishing operation, simplify procedures, and create transparency. Any fishing operation in EEZ are bound by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and compliance of international Laws, Conventions and other international instruments to which India is a Party and compliance of IOTC.

### **Guidelines:**

1. A Letter of Permission in writing (LOP) is required from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for operating any fishing vessel in Indian EEZ. Taking into consideration the Report of the Expert Committee to revalidate potential of Marine fishery resources, 2010 permission is accorded for the following fishing methods:
  - a) Long Lining for tuna
  - b) Tuna Purse Seining
  - c) Squid jigging and squid hand lining
  - d) Mid-water pelagic trawler
  - e) Trap Fishing
  - f) Hook and Line Fishing
  - g) Pole and Line Fishing

2. The operation of Indian deep sea fishing vessels will be governed by the executive Orders issued /to be issued from time to time.
3. The letter of permission should not be transferred to any other company or Individual unless specifically approved by the Government.
4. The area of operation of the deep sea fishing vessels will be regulated by the Instructions / orders issued by the GOI from time to time. The vessel should engage in no activity other than fishing in the Indian EEZ and will not be permitted to fish in the areas covered by the coastline and the line adjoining the following points:

A. Off Orissa, West Bengal Coast

- (i) 19°20'N-85°30'E
- (ii) 20°-86°56'E
- (iii) 20°42'N-88°E
- (iv) 21°8'N-89°7'E
- (v) 21°16'N 89°14'E

B. Off Maharashtra and Gujarat Coastline

- (vi) 22°54'N-67°33E
- (vii) 21°33'N-68°56E
- (viii) 19°2'N-72°E
- (ix) 18°33'N-72°E
- (x) 18°N-72°31E

C. Off Kerala and TamilNadu Coastline

- (xi) 7°45'N-77°E
- (xii) 7°45'N-78°
- (xiii) 7°30'N-78°
- (xiv) 7°30'N-77°

- D. Fishing will be permitted only beyond 24 nautical miles between the Nizampatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Paradeep Port (Orissa).
- E. The vessel should not encroach into areas demarcated for mechanized and Traditional fishing craft as prescribed by the Central/State/UT Government through Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) notification /executive order, etc. from time to time.
- F. The vessel at any time, should not engage in fishing within the territorial waters of India.
- G. The vessels will not be allowed to fish in Indian EEZ at any particular coast at any particular time during such ban periods as notified by the Government from time to time.

5. The operator shall not resort to any type of fishing other than what has been permitted to them; will not exploit any endangered species of marine turtles, mammals and fish species declared as per Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the vessel will not resort to Bottom Trawling/ Pair Trawling/ Bull Trawling; and will not violate the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).
6. The base port for operation of vessel would be any one on the east coast and one on the west coast.
7. Those operators who are desirous of engaging foreign crew will comply with such Visa/ clearances/ landing permit as applicable.
8. The operator will provide the Department a list of foreign crew with details in respect of each foreign crew name, father's name, passport no./sea-man book, nationality and designation.
9. Any change in foreign crew during the operation of vessel in the EEZ is to be reported to the Coast Guard Head quarters and this Ministry well in advance.
10. Date of commencement of voyage along-with duration of voyage with crew list will be furnished to Coast Guard before each sailing. Intimation on completion of each voyage shall also be furnished to Coast Guard on return of the vessel.
11. Inspection of vessel by nearest Coast Guard authority before and after completion of each voyage at the shore or sea will be carried out.
12. The operator will submit the voyage report in the prescribed format (Annexure-i) to FSI Mumbai on quarterly basis.
13. Mid-sea transfer of fish catch will be governed by Reserve Bank of India regulations in this regard. Place and time of mid sea transfer of catch together with particular of ship into which catches are to be transferred should be intimated to coast guard authorities and this Ministry in advance.
14. For proper monitoring of the operations of Indian deep sea fishing vessels and sea Safety point of view, deep sea fishing vessel operators shall report their vessels' position daily at 0800 hrs, to Coast Guard, during the fishing operations.
15. All the vessels should be fitted with appropriate communication equipments as prescribed under the GSR 253 of Merchant Shipping (Distress and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 1995.
16. Government reserves the right to inspect the vessel and machinery and equipments on the vessel and shore based processing plants of the operators at any time without notice.
17. The vessel should be registered with MMD or any designated authority.
18. The operator will give prior intimation to the Ministry as well as to Coast Guard before Leaving the Indian EEZ.

19. Since the fishing vessel industry with reference to resource specific deep sea fishing vessels is by and large not available in India, any operator may import such fishing vessels for fishing in Indian EEZ through existing import procedures as may be laid down from time to time.
20. The Indian company shall undertake to maintain and operate the vessel in good condition and pay for all operating and maintenance expenses including insurance, wages of crew, surveys, etc. and the crew shall be insured against all risks, acts of God, insurrection, etc. with an approved Insurance Company.
21. The Indian company shall ensure that the vessels imported by them should comply with various requirements of Indian Ocean tuna commission (IOTC).
22. The government may reserve the right to suspended or cancelled the letter of permission after due procedure as may be prescribed.

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