



CONDITIONS FOR SEA CUCUMBER FISHING



1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1.1 Applicants shall be a citizen of Seychelles.
- 1.2 The boat shall have a valid 'local fishing vessels' license and a valid 'Sea cucumber Fishing' licence.
- 1.3 The 'Sea cucumber Fishing Licence' is non- transferable. The sale of a vessel authorized under a 'Sea cucumber Fishing Licence' shall not entail automatic transfer of the licence.
- 1.4 The licence is valid for the fishing of sea cucumber during the open season which will be from 15th September 2020 – 15th June 2021.
- 1.5 Only three sea cucumber species; the Flower Teat Fish (*Holothuria Microthele sp*) the White Teat Fish (*H. fuscogilva*) and the Prickly Redfish (*Thelenota ananas*) are allowed to be harvested as per the allocated quota for each licensee.
- 1.6 The commercial targeting of other species other than sea cucumber, as specified under 1.5 above, is prohibited during the open season unless written request made by the licensee to the SFA and the subsequent issue of a written approval by the SFA.
- 1.7 Commercial targeting of other species during the closed season can only be undertaken following written request made by the licensee to the SFA and the subsequent issue of a written approval by the SFA.
- 1.8 The request for renewal of the licence shall be made at least one month before the opening of the sea cucumber fishing season.
- 1.9 Licence renewal shall depend on the following conditions; (a) the applicant meet all pre-conditions set by the SFA (b) the applicant has complied with conditions under previous licences (c) the authority is satisfied that the applicant will comply with license conditions.
- 1.10 The licence may be revoked if the vessel is not operational for a consecutive period of 4 months.

2. VESSEL, CREW AND EQUIPMENT

- 2.1 The skipper of the vessel shall have a valid skipper license.
- 2.2 The licensee shall notify the SFA in writing of change of skipper on board his vessel at least 48 hours prior to the schedule departure of the vessel on a fishing trip.



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- 2.3 All crew members must be registered with the SFA and only registered crew shall operate under this licence.
- 2.4 The sea cucumber fishing license and the registration card of all crew members shall be carried on board the fishing vessel during all fishing trips and must be produced upon demand by any SFA's Authorized Officer.
- 2.5 A maximum of 4 divers and 1 apprentice diver (preferably from the Maritime Training Centre) are allowed to operate under this license, and to be on board the vessel during any fishing trip. The apprentice shall be allowed on board for a maximum training period of 6 months during any open season.
- 2.6 All divers including the apprentice must be certified as per SFA's established standards, i.e. must possess the following document; (a) a valid advance water diving certificate or above, (b) a valid medical examination certificate, and (c) a valid insurance cover. Copies of those documents shall be provided to the SFA for its record.
- 2.7 All diving tanks shall be tested and certified by SBS as per mandatory SS11 Standards.
- 2.8 A VMS system shall be installed on board the fishing vessel and shall be operational throughout the trip, with the exception when the vessel is in Port.
- 2.9 All vessels must have at least one operational communication equipment (such as SSB, VHF, satellite phones).
- 2.10 Mothership operation is not allowed. However, a licensed schooner type vessel shall carry a single dory.
- 2.11 All fishing vessels must have lockable fishing holds which can be securely locked by SFA inspectors upon entry into port, if landing is not carried out immediately.
- 2.12 For purpose of recording sea cucumber catch and effort data, the vessel shall be provided with a Crosscall Trekker M1 core Smartphone and all necessary accessories, by the SFA. All Smartphones issued should contain a copy of ODK collect app, the electronic logbook application.
- 2.13 The licensee shall be responsible to provide facilities to charge and safely store the Smartphone
- 2.14 The licensee shall be responsible to ensure that skippers attend training workshops provided by the SFA, for the use of the electronic logbook on the Smartphone.
- 2.15 The skipper shall sign the "Smartphone/ Electronic logbook landing form for skipper" with his name and surname legibly upon receiving and returning the Smartphone and all its accessories.



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- 2.16 The Smartphone and all the relevant accessories shall fall under the responsibility of the skipper from the moment of issue, for the duration of the fishing trip up until its return to the designated SFA officer. The skipper shall safeguard the Smartphone and all of its accessories for the duration of the trip, and shall report to the designated SFA Officer, any malfunction and/or damage that occurs to the Smartphone or any of its accessories, while under their responsibility to SFA.
- 2.17 Any damage or loss of the smartphone or any of its accessories, that is perceived as a result of negligence while borrowed shall become the responsibility of both skipper and licensee.
- 2.18 The Skipper shall correctly enter the sea cucumber catch and effort data, using both the Smartphone and paper format of logbook provided by SFA until it is agreed that the skipper can switch to only using the E-logbook for data entry.
- 2.19 The skipper shall complete the E-logbook provided by the SFA appropriately with the correct sea cucumber catch and effort data. Failure to properly fill in the E-logbook shall result in the skipper being restricted to undertake a next trip, until all issues have been satisfactorily rectified in collaboration with the SFA.

3. FISHING TRIPS AND FISHING OPERATIONS

- 3.1 The licensee shall notify SFA at least 12 hours before conducting a fishing trip with the date and time of departure and the expected date of return on the following telephone numbers: **2716300** or **2523786**. The hours of departure are restricted between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Departures during weekends and public holidays will carry a charge of SR 1000.
- 3.2 The licensee shall provide SFA with a list of all crew members during inspection, prior to the vessel departing on a fishing trip and must immediately notify SFA of any change of crew made after the inspection has been completed.
- 3.3 The skipper or diving supervisor must complete a dive log form (provided by the SFA) for each diver.
- 3.4 The fishing trip shall be limited to a maximum duration of 30 fishing days.
- 3.5 A rest period (whereby the vessel shall remain in Port) of 7 days shall be observed between each fishing trip unless the vessel returned to port was due to force majeure.

4. PORT ENTRY AND LANDING OF CATCHES

- 4.1 Port entry and landings must be done at these designated landing sites: Victoria (fishing port), Bel-Ombre (*fishing port*), and Providence (Zone 6). There shall be no stopover in any undesignated landing sites unless of force majeure or bad weather,



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in which case the SFA must be immediately notified on the following telephone numbers: **2716300** or **2523786**.

- 4.2 The skipper must confirm the date, time and location of port entry (in designated landing sites) preferably 12 hours, but not less than 4 hours prior to arrival on the following telephone numbers: 2716300 or 2523786. The hours of port entry are restricted to between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during working days, except for *force majeure* or bad weather.
- 4.3 Landing of sea cucumber are restricted to *between* 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during working days.
- 4.4 *Port entry* and inspection undertaken outside of the specified hours and during weekends and public holidays will carry a charge of SR 1000. SFA's inspector(s) shall furnish an invoice to the skipper upon completion of the inspection. Any applicable inspection fee shall be paid at the SFA's account section after the completion of the inspection and prior to the departure of the vessel for its next fishing trip.
- 4.5 All crew member must remain on board the fishing vessel during the inspection of landings by SFA's inspectors. Non crew member, with the exception of the vessel owner and the person(s) tasked for removing sea cucumber from the holds, shall not be present on the vessel during inspection. The skipper shall notify SFA Authorised Officer the name(s) of the person(s) who will be removing sea cucumber from the holds prior to the start of the inspection.
- 4.6 The licensee must provide the inspection certificate obtained from the SFA's inspector to the processor during the sale of sea cucumber.

5. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- 5.1 Insulting or obstructing any SFA's Authorized Officer during the undertaking of their duties will be dealt with as an offence under the appropriate section of the Fisheries Act.
- 5.2 No skipper or owner shall be allowed back in the business of Sea cucumber once convicted for illegal fishing of sea cucumber within a period of 5 years commencing from the date of conviction.
- 5.3 Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the license and management measures may result in penalties or the license being revoked.



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- 5.4 Failure to comply with any of the following conditions: 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.18 or 2.19, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, shall result in the vessel not being authorized to depart on its next fishing trip until compliance is respected.
- 5.5 Failure to comply with conditions 4.5 shall result in a fine of up to SCR 5,000 for the crew concern.
- 5.6 Failure to comply with any of the following conditions: 1.6, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8, 2.18 or 2.19, 3.3, 4.1 and 4.2, shall result in a fine of up to SCR 20,000 for the skipper.
- 5.7 Failure to comply with the following conditions: 2.3, 3.4, 4.4, and 4.6, shall result in a fine of up to SCR 20,000 for the license holder.