

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON RESPONSIBILITIES AND
COORDINATION IN RELATION TO LIBERIAN FLAGGED VESSELS ENGAGED
IN FISHING AND FISHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY OF LIBERIA
AND
THE LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into this 31st day of December, 2019 by and between the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) represented by its Director General, **Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco** and the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), represented by its Commissioner, **James F. Kollie, Jr.** NaFAA and LiMA shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Parties".

WHEREAS the Republic of Liberia is party to international and regional fisheries instruments including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), and has obligations as a cooperating non-party of the following Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs): Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Commission (SPRFMO), and the West and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

ACKNOWLEDGING the legal responsibility of Liberia to exercise effective control over its flagged vessels engaged in fishing and fishing-related activities;

BEARING IN MIND that the Liberia's transshipment program is unique in its scope and reach thereby requiring special arrangements and collaboration between the various Liberian actors;

WHEREAS NaFAA, established by Law, has authority and responsibility over all persons and vessels engaged in or otherwise connected with fishing and fishing-related activities in relation to the Fisheries Waters and areas beyond national jurisdiction, including for implementing international law and measures of RFMOs applicable to Liberia. NaFAA is the competent authority for fisheries and fisheries-related matters

MINDFUL that "related activities", in connection with fishing, is defined in international, regional and national law to include storing, transshipping, processing or transporting fish or fish products, refuelling or supplying fishing vessels or performing other activities in support of fishing operations, exporting fish or fish products from the country and attempting or preparing to undertake such activities;

WHEREAS LiMA is responsible for the registration, certification, safety of ocean-going vessels, and enforcement of international maritime conventions treaties, Liberia Maritime Law and Regulations;

WHEREAS the Parties have pledged their commitment to achieving the objectives of this MOU;

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NOW THEREFORE the Parties have agreed as follows:

OBJECTIVE

1. The objective of this MOU is to ensure the smooth and seamless coordination between NaFAA and LiMA in administering Liberia's fish and fish-related transshipment program, taking into account the regional and international legal obligations of the Republic of Liberia.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR FISHING AND FISHING-RELATED MATTERS

2. The Parties recognize NaFAA as the competent authority for fishing and fishing-related matters.
3. LiMA shall continue in its role as competent authority for maritime and maritime-related matters.

VESSEL REGISTRATION PROCESS

4. LiMA shall be responsible for the vessel registration process and decision-making on allowing or denying registration, and for charging and receiving fees and levies in relation to vessel registration.
5. LiMA shall cooperate with NaFAA during the vessel registration process by:
 - (a) taking into account any requests made by NaFAA to obtain or clarify any fishing or fishing-related vessel information from applicants;
 - (b) carrying out joint pre-registration/pre-licensing inspections.

FISHING AND FISHING - RELATED REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS

6. NaFAA, being assisted by LiMA, has authority for:
 - (a) the licensing and authorization of Liberian flagged vessels engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities,
 - (b) regulating all fishing and fishing-related activities of Liberian flagged vessels within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, including setting conditions for fishing, fishing-related activities and transshipment;
 - (c) requiring information and reports directly from vessel owners, operators and masters in relation to fishing and fishing-related activities;
 - (d) undertaking an administrative process for non-compliance with requirements under national fisheries-related legislation and RFMOs' measures and setting fines and/or penalties for non-compliance.

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MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

7. LiMA shall promptly share with NaFAA any reports that may be directly or indirectly relevant to fishing and fishing-related matters.

INFORMATION SHARING

8. The Parties shall agree to prioritize the information to be shared, including information relating to registration, licensing, alleged or proven non-compliance by vessels or vessel operators, de-registration, inclusion of vessels on FAO, RFMO authorised vessel lists and illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel lists and where a vessel may have changed flags.

DURATION OF MOU

9. This MOU is effective upon the date last signed and executed by the authorized representative of the parties and shall remain in full force and effect as long as these parties remain the administrative arms of the Government of Liberia in their respective areas.


AMENDMENT OF MOU


10. Either Party may request amendments to this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions or amendments to this MOU which are agreed by the Parties shall be incorporated by written instrument and effective when signed by both parties.

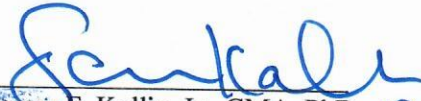
ENTIRETY OF THE MOU

11. This MOU represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and agreements, whether written or oral.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HAVE SET THEIR HANDS AND AFFIXED THEIR SIGNATURES ON THE DAY AND DATE FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN TO AVAIL WHEREVER, WHENEVER AND TO WHOMEVER THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME


Emma Metieh Glassco
Director General
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority




James F. Kollie, Jr., CMA, PhD
Commissioner
Liberia Maritime Authority

12/31/19



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