

2) LAWS ON MARINE FISHERIES

Liberian Code of Laws, Title 24, Natural Resources Law.

§ 90. Licenses for captains or owners of fishing trawlers or sports fishermen. - It shall be unlawful for any fishing industry to operate through fishing in the marine or fresh waters of Liberia unless the owner or captain of any trawler which is used in such industry shall obtain a license from the Bureau of Internal Revenues. Such license may be obtained only on presentation of a certificate from the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce stating that the applicant is qualified to receive such license, and on payment of the fee indicated below :

Captain or owner of trawler measuring fifty feet in length	
or over	\$ 150.00
Captain or owner of trawler measuring under fifty feet	75.00
Fisherman for sport	10.00

Such license must be renewed annually.

This section shall not apply to captains or owners of trawlers operated by or for the Bureau of Fisheries.

§ 91. Registration of boats for fishing. - All fishing vessels and gear used for fishing shall be registered in the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. A person desiring to obtain such registration shall file an application with the Bureau of Fisheries on a form prescribed by the Bureau showing the fitness of the applicant to engage in fishing, the type of fishing to be engaged in, and the type of gear or contrivances and the size and number of vessels to be used. On approval of the application by the Bureau of Fisheries and the presentation by the applicant of an official revenue receipt certifying that the annual license fee for boats prescribed by section 380 of the Revenue and Finance Law has been paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenues, the Bureau of Fisheries shall issue a registration card in favor of the vessel and gear as to which application was made.

§ 92. License plates for boats for fishing. - All boats used for fishing except those operated by or for the Bureau of Fisheries shall be required to obtain license plates from the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The plate for each boat shall be placed at a conspicuous place on the outer body thereof. A fee of five dollars shall be charged for each plate payable at the Bureau of Internal Revenues. A license plate shall not be issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenues under this section to any person within the purview of section 85 of this Title who is not in possession of a license required by that section.

§ 93. Gear on fishing boats. - Owners of fishing boats shall provide sufficient and adequate life saving gear for members of the crew. The Bureau of Fisheries may refuse to grant or may cancel the registration of any fishing boat which does not possess adequate life saving gear.

The Bureau of Fisheries may prohibit fishing in any area with any type of fishing gear which it finds harmful to the fish resources of that area.

§ 94. Use of dynamite

1. It shall be unlawful for any person, company, or corporation to dynamite in any waters of Liberia, fresh or marine, as a means of killing fish, except for scientific investigation duly authorized by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce or by special permit granted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce or an official so designated by him. For the implementation of the objective of this section, duly appointed and authorized officials of the Bureau of Fisheries shall have the right to inquire into the means of capture of any quantity of fish, of any person or persons engaged in fishing, and, upon reasonable grounds for suspicion, have them prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the republic.

(1) There is doubt whether these provisions have been repealed by the Forestry Development Authority Act of 1976.

in fishing, and, upon reasonable grounds for suspicion, have them prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the Republic.

2. All persons importing dynamite shall file a declaration in the office of the Collector of Customs after the arrival of such dynamite in bond, stating that the dynamite is intended for some special purpose, which shall be specified, and a promise not to use ~~the~~ dynamite for any other purpose. Any person violating the provisions of paragraph 2 of this section shall forfeit all the dynamite imported.

§ 95. Placing harmful substances in streams.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to put into any of the creeks, swamps, rivers, streams or other waters of the Republic any poisonous barks, leaves, shrubs, roots, or other poisonous substance for the purpose of destroying or catching fish.
2. No person shall allow sawdust, mill waste or other material that is harmful to fish to enter any stream or waterway in Liberia.

§ 96. Nets and seines. - For the purpose of maintaining a sustained yield of the fishery no trawl-nets with cod ends, smaller than three inch mesh shall be used for fishing in Liberian waters. No beach seines with cod ends less than two and one-half inches shall be used for fishing ; but the wings of beach seines may be two and one-half, three, or four inches according to the election of the fisherman. For the convenience of fishermen all mesh measurements shall be "stretched mesh".

§ 97. Crabs and lobsters found with eggs. - To ensure the propagation of the species, all fishermen fishing in Liberian waters shall release crabs and lobsters caught and found with eggs.

§ 98. Personnel of Bureau of Fisheries on fishing boats. - For the purpose of collecting odd samples and other data for records of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Bureau of Fisheries may place any of its personnel on any fishing boat.

§ 99. Zones of fishing areas.

1. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is hereby authorized and empowered to divide the fishing areas of Liberia into zones, and shall take all action necessary and consistent with the objectives of this subchapter to protect and preserve the species from extermination, and may set aside any area or zone for special type of fishing or for experimental purposes.
2. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is hereby authorized and empowered to close any area or zone found to be breeding ground for shrimps or any marine fish for a definite season in order to save the eggs and young of such marine life.

§ 100. Reports by licensed fishermen. - All licensed fishermen shall submit a report to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce through the Bureau of Fisheries on or before the 28th day of each month, showing :

- (a) The area or zone in which the fish are caught,
- (b) Tonnage of total catch,
- (c) Type of gear used,
- (d) Approximate value of the total catch,
- (e) Species of fish caught.

A person, company, or corporation engaged in processing fish shall show in its monthly report :

- (a) Kind of fish processed,
- (b) Quantity of fish processed,
- (c) Value of fish processed.

§ 101. Penalty for violations. - The penalty for violation or any provision of this subchapter for which no other penalty is prescribed shall be a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment for a term not less than two calendar months nor more than eighteen months. Any fish unlawfully caught may be confiscated by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

3) FISHERIES REGULATIONS

(a) Revised Fishing Rules and Regulations, 1973.

Under the authority of the Act of Legislature passed and approved January 30, 1973, creating the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, these Revised Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated for the purpose of regulating and controlling the Fishing Industry of the Republic of Liberia.

TITLE:

These Revised Rules and Regulations may be cited as the Revised Fishing Rules and Regulations of the Republic of Liberia and shall apply to all fishing activities of the Republic - Marine and Fresh water.

DEFINITIONS :

1. "Fish" - All aquatic and semi-aquatic animal life and all remains therefore shall be considered for the purpose of these Revised Rules and Regulations as fish. The term includes but is not limited to scale fish, molluscs, crustaceans, chelonians, sponges and coral.
2. "Commercial Fishing" - Any operation for capturing fish for sale shall be considered for the purpose of these Revised Rules and Regulations as Commercial Fishing.
3. "Fishing Gear" - Any contrivance used to capture fish shall be considered for the purpose of these Revised Rules and Regulations as Fishing Gear.
4. "Fishing Vessels" - Any structure which is made to float upon the water, and which is used for fishing shall be for the purpose of these Revised Rules and Regulations, be considered a fishing vessel.
5. "Fishing Waters" - "Liberian Waters" "Waters" - All bodies of water falling under the sovereignty of the Republic of Liberia. The term includes but is not limited to all surface, tide, inland and territorial waters of the Republic of Liberia.
6. "Foreign Commercial Fishing" - Any operation for capturing fish for sale which is primarily conducted or engaged in by persons natural or corporate, who are not citizens of the Republic of Liberia.
7. "Domestic Commercial Fishing" - Any operation for capturing fish for sale which is conducted or engaged in by persons, natural or corporate who are citizens of the Republic of Liberia.
8. "Territorial Sea" - The Territorial Sea of the Republic of Liberia extends to a distance of 200 (two hundred) nautical miles from the base line of the Republic of Liberia.

REQUIREMENT FOR FISHING:

Any person, company or corporation desiring to fish in the waters of Liberia, Marine and/or fresh water, shall apply to the Bureau of Fisheries, and upon fulfillment of the requirements prescribed by the Bureau of Fisheries, and upon recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture to the Minister of Finance, a licence may be obtained. The license fees shall be fixed by Government from time to time as circumstances may warrant.

All fish and fish resources extracted from the Territorial Sea of Liberia shall be landed within the Republic of Liberia and all vessels registered by the Ministry of Agriculture to fish within the Territorial Sea of Liberia shall be physically based in Liberia.