



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY
Office of the Managing Director

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CIRCULAR No. 09/2020

TO : ALL FISH PROCESSING FACILITY OPERATORS, LICENSED VESSELS FISHING FOR 2020 LICENSING PERIOD.

FROM : John E. Kasu, Managing Director

DATE : 23rd March 2020

SUBJECT : **MANDATORY MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

The Government has declared a State of Emergency starting 24th March 2020 per the Official Statement from the Prime Minister's Office dated 22nd March 2020. The Government of Papua New Guinea has heightened surveillance since the first case of COVID-19. This is Circular No.3 in an effort to mitigate the spread of this deadly virus.

This circular supersedes the previous circulars sent out by the National Fisheries Authority.

All Fishing Companies, Fishing Vessel Operators and Fish Processing Facility Operators are directed to;

- 1) Adhere to the measures outlined in the Prime Ministers Official Statement in declaring a State of Emergency.
- 2) Adhere to all measures and requirements set by the Department of Health, Ministry of Immigration and Border Security, Department of Transport and other Departments and Agencies of the PNG Government.
- 3) All foreign crew and employees who have flown into PNG after 6th March 2020 are to be identified and isolated for testing by the National

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Department of Health and WHO quarantine committee. A list of these people to be sent to NFA and NDoH and WHO for follow-up and surveillance purposes.

- 4) All Fishing Vessels and Fish Processing Factories are hereby directed to have in place an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) clearly outlining the measures to be taken at this time of a declared state of emergency. ERP's to clearly identify isolation areas as well as the scaling down on staff and other arrangements for staff's well being during the shutdown period. Copies of ERP to be sent to NFA by Tuesday 24th March 2020.
- 5) Crew changes in PNG national jurisdiction is suspended.
- 6) Ensure that foreign crews and employees are banned from entering the country by fishing vessels or by aircraft during this time.
- 7) Fumigate and disinfect the fishing vessels in line with your existing standard operating procedures and maintain proof of such for inspection.
- 8) Provide Personal Protective Equipment to Observers and Crews as precautionary measures in the event of bunkering and other vessel activities such as port calls that may pose any risk of infection.
- 9) Ensure that all PNG Flagged and Locally based Foreign Vessels that have been fishing exclusively in PNG without visiting any foreign port in the last four (4) months and continue to fish and offload in PNG can transship and offload as usual in their respective ports.
- 10) Ensure that all PNG Flagged Vessels, and Locally Based Foreign (LBF) Vessels, and Bunker/Tanker vessels are required to notify NFA of their intention to bunker as prescribed under their respective license conditions.
- 11) Ensure that all PNG Fishing Vessels fishing in other waters under Bilateral agreements are suspended from entering PNG Ports for landing or transshipment.
- 12) Ensure that all PNG Flagged and Locally based Foreign Vessels are required to immediately report any cases of illness of any member of the crew or Observer onboard to NFA and make ports call as soon as possible for immediate medical attention.
- 13) Ensure that all foreign vessels fishing under bilateral access agreements are suspended from making any port calls in any authorized PNG Ports for any purposes.

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- 14) Observer placements on all Foreign Vessels fishing under bilateral access agreements are suspended. Observers currently placed onboard fishing vessels under access agreements are to continue with their duties over this period.
- 15) Observer placements for PNG Flagged Vessels and locally based foreign (LBF) vessels fishing exclusively in PNG are to be conducted at the Port facilities of Vidar in Madang, the Lae and Frabelle Ports in Lae, Rabaul Port and Wewak Port.
- 16) Compulsory Inspections of foreign flagged vessels are suspended for an indefinite period. All original license copies will be sent by mail and e-copies via email.
- 17) All other Food Safety Inspections and Statutory Inspections are suspended until further notice.
- 18) All fishing vessels will be closely monitored through the vessel monitoring system, and observer reports during this time, including the following contact points:
 - a) Audit and Certification functions will be limited to Exports only. Any queries to be directed to Mrs. Veronica Talis-Graut on 7482-1019, WhatsApp on 7637-6944 or email: veronicatalisgraut@yahoo.com or vgraut@fisheries.gov.pg;
 - b) Catch Documentation activities will be monitored as usual for now until further notice. Any queries to be directed to Mr. Alois Kinol on 7548-3742 or email: akinol@fisheries.gov.pg or alois.kinol@gmail.com
 - c) Observer Program activities will be monitored as usual until further notice. Any queries to be directed to Mr. Adrian Nanguromo on 7179-6339, 7612-8957, email: ananguromo@fisheries.gov.pg or ajnanguromo@gmail.com
 - d) VMS functions will continue as usual. Any queries to be directed to Mr. David Xavier Karis on 7273-6611 or dkaris@fisheries.gov.pg or dxkaris@gmail.com
 - e) Compliance functions will continue as usual. Any queries to be directed to Ms. Martina Ragagalo on 7557-5855 or mragagalo@fisheries.gov.pg
- 19) Any non-compliance to this circular will attract a fine of K1million or termination of license.

NFA is going to operate on a skeleton staff in the next 14 days from the date of this circular. Please note that this measures will be in place for 14 days

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starting 24th March 2020 and will be reviewed depending on the developments at the National level.

NFA is in close communication with relevant agencies like the Department of Health and Department of Transport and the National Tasks force committee. Any further outcomes of these discussions will be communicated to the PNG Fishing Industry and all Fishing Vessels licensed to fish in PNG.

For any enquiries or notifications please contact our NFA COVID-19 Internal Committee through Mrs. Gemma Matainaho on 7649-3590, email: gmatainaho@fisheries.gov.pg or Ms. Nancy Taka on 7251-0385 or ntaka@fisheries.gov.pg or nancy.takal1@gmail.com.

To report any possible case of the COVID-19, please call the NDOH Hotline: 1800 200, Mobile: 019 Digicel: 7196 0813.



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Managing Director



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