



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO 84

PERTAINING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBERIA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

WHEREAS, Article 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia prescribes that the Republic shall manage the natural resources of Liberia to advance the general welfare of the Liberian people and the economic development of Liberia;

WHEREAS, the fishery resources of the Republic of Liberia have been underutilized for over a decade and the Government of Liberia (Government) intends to encourage investment in this sector to ensure the sustainable development and utilization of this natural resource;

WHEREAS, the Government in furtherance of its intentions to begin to sustainably utilize its fishery resources recognizes that the Bureau of National Fisheries, established under the Ministry of Agriculture, needs to be granted an autonomous status to meet the demands and trends of the fishing industry, reduce bureaucratic red tape associated with the process of obtaining fishing licenses, and simultaneously ensure appropriate standards in the fishery sector;

WHEREAS, Government has initiated the process to pass legislation to transform the Bureau of National Fisheries to an autonomous agency of Government charged with the responsibility of managing and developing Liberia's fishery resources, which would attract investment and expand Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture sectors;

WHEREAS, Government being cognizant of the lengthy process involved with enactment of said legislation, realizes the need to institute an interim measure to ensure Liberia begins the process of reforming its fishery sector;

WHEREAS, in the exercise of the Executive Power vested in the President by the Constitution, the President may issue executive orders in the public interests, either to meet exigencies or address particular situations that cannot await lengthy legislative processes;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, by the power vested in me under the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, do hereby issue the following as an interim measure until such time that the National Fisheries Act is enacted into law thus establishing an autonomous fisheries agency.



SECTION 1: AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

The Liberia Maritime Authority is hereby granted full and complete supervisory, oversight and fiscal authority of the Bureau of National Fisheries and Liberia's fishery resources pending the enactment of the National Fisheries Act.

This authority shall include the promulgation of regulations, guidelines, fees and the granting of licenses and authorizations for the sustainable utilization and management of Liberia's fisheries resources.

SECTION 2: APPLICATION

To ensure that the objective of this Executive Order is fully implemented, the following measures are deemed in place:

- a. All authorities, including supervisory and fiscal responsibilities over the Fisheries Sector including of the Bureau of National Fisheries shall now come under the full and complete control of the Liberia Maritime Authority.
- b. That the Inshore Exclusive Zone (IEZ) as established by the Fisheries Regulations of 2010 is hereby reduced from 6 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles. This is to ensure that industrial and semi-industrial fishing can restart and again become viable.
- c. That fishing vessels below 500 gross tons shall be exempt from all APM Terminal and other Ports handling charges.
- d. That the cumulative stock of fishery resources to be harvested shall not exceed 100,000 metric tons per annum
- e. That the Bureau of National Fisheries, under the supervision of the Liberia Maritime Authority, will issue and publish revised guidelines and fiscal regime for obtaining Fishery License.

This Executive Order shall take immediate effect on this 22nd day of April, A.D. 2017.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, THIS 22nd DAY OF
APRIL, A.D. 2017.

SIGNED:


ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA