



15 December 2014
File Ref: SO/6

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: All Fishing Vessel Associations and Companies

CC: FFA Official Contacts
FFA Fisheries Contacts
All National Licensing and Surveillance Authorities

FFA VESSEL REGISTER REQUIREMENT FOR AIS FROM 1-Jul-2015

I refer to the FFA circular 14_36 dated 3-Jun-2014 sent out to advise on the changes to the FFA Vessel Registration requirements to be effective from 1-Jul-2014. This circular also included notification regarding the requirement for the **Automatic Identification System (AIS)** which stated that:

- The 16th MCS Working Group meeting in 2013 recommended to FFC the requirement that foreign fishing vessels be outfitted with Automatic Identification System (AIS) as a condition to be placed in Good Standing on the FFA Vessel Register. The meeting also recognized that VMS remains FFA members' primary electronic monitoring tool for foreign fishing vessels while operating in member waters.
- The FFC85 meeting held in May 2013 endorsed the requirement that foreign fishing vessels be outfitted with AIS as a condition to be placed in Good Standing on the FFA Vessel Register. Mindful of the concerns raised by FFA members regarding a longer timeframe for national implementation, the FFC agreed that a regional requirement could commence on 1 January 2015.

Following this notification, a number of requests has been received by FFA for a delayed implementation of the FFA Vessel Registration requirement for the AIS.

The FFA secretariat has consulted with members and reached the decision that the implementation of the AIS requirement will be deferred to 1-Jul-2015.

This circular serves to advise all vessel operators that FFA remains committed to implement the AIS requirement effective from 1-Jul-2015 when all fishing vessels applying for Good Standing on the FFA Vessel Register will be required to be equipped with AIS. The vessel registration application form will be revised to include additional



fields where the vessel operators can provide necessary details of the AIS equipment installed on the fishing vessel.

I look forward to your continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Wez Norris
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL