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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
EXTRAORDINARY

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No. 2319/19 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

L.D.B 1/2012 (V)

**THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 2 OF 1996**

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Fisheries under paragraph (se) of subsection (1) of section 61 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

**DOUGLAS DEVANANDA,**  
Minister of Fisheries.

Colombo,  
01st of February, 2023.

**Regulations**

1. These regulations may be cited as Recreational Fishing Management Regulations 2023.
2. These regulations shall apply in respect of any person engaging himself in recreational fishing activities.
3. A person shall not engage in any recreational fishing activity expect under the authority of license issued in that behalf under these regulations.



4. A person shall not alter, tamper or use fraudulently any recreational fishing license issued under these regulations.

5. All license and certificates issued under these regulations shall be produced before any authorized officer when required to do so.

6. Any endangered, threatened and protected fish species caught under any recreational fishing activity shall be released alive.

7. Any person engaging himself in any recreational fishing activity shall –

- (1) Release live fish as soon as possible
- (2) Use a hook of appropriate size and pattern for fishing
- (3) Avoid removing fish from the water to unhook
- (4) Use a wet rag or wet hands to handle fish
- (5) Treat fish gently to reduce stress and injury

8. A person shall not -

- (1) Purchase, sell or export the catch of any recreational fishing activity;
- (2) Transship the fish catch of any recreational fishing activity;
- (3) Use stainless hooks for recreational fishing;
- (4) Catch any fish species prohibited under the fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 and the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469);
- (5) Engage in any fishing operation prohibited under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 or any other fishing operation not referred to in schedule A of these regulations as a prescribed fishing operation for recreational fishing;
- (6) Engage in any recreational fishing activity during the closed season declared by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or in any area declared as spawning or breeding areas of fish or as a Marine Protected area by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or the Department of Wildlife Conservation respectively;
- (7) Leave fishing gear unattended except when using techniques that are designated for fishing activities carried out passively;
- (8) Engage himself in recreational fishing unless a de-hooker and line cutter are kept on board when required to release fish alive;
- (9) Dump any waste materials, pollutants such as fuel, oil or any chemical into marine, brackish water, fresh water and shore based ecosystems.

9. Every application for a license under these regulations shall be substantially in “Form A” referred to in Schedule E of these regulations and shall be sent to the Director – General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources accompanied by the relevant license fee specified under Schedule B of these regulations.

10. Upon receipt of the license fee specified in Schedule B hereto, the Director-General shall issue license substantially in “Form B” referred to in Schedule “E” of these regulations and shall be in force for a period of one year from the date of issue of the license unless cancelled earlier.

11. Any application for renewal of a license shall be made one month prior to the date of expiry of such license.

## PART I

### REGISTRATION OF RECREATIONAL FISHING VESSELS

12. A person shall not operate any vessel for recreational fishing without having on board a valid certificate of registration issued under these regulations.

13. Any person engaging himself in recreational fishing Shall register every vessel with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources prior to obtaining a license under these regulations.

14. Every such application for registration shall be substantially in “Form C” of Schedule E of these regulations and shall be submitted to the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources accompanied by the relevant registration fee specified in Schedule C of these regulations together with the following documents :-

- (1) A valid skipper license issued by the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources with proof of a training course followed by the Skipper as specified in Schedule D of these regulations.
- (2) A certificate of sea worthiness obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or any other international registered organization having authority to issue such certificates relating to the vessel.
- (3) Proof that the vessel is equipped with all essential life saving and safety equipment for both crew and passengers.
- (4) A comprehensive insurance cover for the vessel including its crew members and passengers of such vessel, obtained from any insurance company approved by the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.

15. Upon receipt of the Registration fee Specified in Schedule C hereto, the Director General shall issue certificate of registration substantially in “ Form D” of schedule E these regulation, to any recreational fishing vesseld under these regualations.

16. The period of validity of such certificate of registration shall be one year from the date of issue of such certificate.

17. Any application for the renewal of any such registration shall be submitted one month prior to the date of expiry of such certificate of registration.

## PART II

### DATA REPORTING OF RECREATIONAL FISHING

18. Every owner of any licensed vessel shall submit details on catch species on a quarterly basis in the Forms specified in Schedule E hereto, to the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

19. Every owner of any licensed vessel shall provide details separately on release of all catch species and on landing of all catch species as per the template provided in Schedule E of these regulations for data reporting.

20. In these regulations:

“Authorized Officer” means any officer authorized by the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under Section 46(1) of the Act and includes any officer of the Army, Air Force or Police not below the rank of Sergeant and any officer of the Navy not below the rank of Petty Officer;

“Lifesaving equipment” means equipment which helps to survive in a harsh situation which occurred in the sea;

“Prohibited Fish Species” means any fish species which has been mentioned as prohibited fish species under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 and the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469);

“Recreational fishing” also known as sport fishing, Angling, Game fishing means exploiting fish for noncommercial purposes. This includes any fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques;

“shore based” means operating from or based on a shore or land.

## SCHEDULE

### Prescribed Fishing Operations for Recreational Fishery

1. Hand line Fishing Operation
2. Rod and Reel Fishing Operation
  - (a) Popping
  - (b) Jigging
  - (c) Fly fishing
  - (d) Live Baiting Dead Baiting (only with Circle Hook)
  - (e) Trolling Fishing Operation
  - (f) Casting
3. Diving

## SCHEDULE B

### License Fee/ Renewal license Fee for Recreational Fishery

Category	Fees (Rs) (Per year)
01. Nationals	
a. Individuals	1000
b. Companies	1,000 (per person)
02. Foreigners	
a. Individuals (Tourists Visa Holders)	500 per day
b. Individuals (Residence Visa Holders)	5,000
c. Companies	6,000 (per person)

**Schedule C**

**Boat Registration Fees**

Boat Type	Nationals (Rs.)
NTRB	500
MTRB	500
OFRP	2,000
IDAY	1,500
IMUL	5,000
Yatch	5,000

**SCHEDULE D**

**Prescribed Training courses for Skippers**

1. Ocean University of Sri Lanka established under the Ocean University of Sri Lanka Act, No. 31 of 2014
2. Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College (CINEC) recognized as a degree awarding institute under the universities Act, No. 16 of 1978
3. Any other recognized Course conducted by reputed training institute (Course module should be submitted to DFAR).

**SCHEDULE E**

**Quarterly Catch Data Reporting Format**

**General Information**

1. Name of the person/ Recreational fishing business name:
2. Company registration, if any
3. Recreational Fishery registration No.
4. Contact No.
5. Vessel Registration No.

<b>Reporting Period</b>	
<b>Number of Fishing Trips</b>	
<b>Maximum duration of a fishing trip</b>	
<b>Minimum duration of the fishing trip</b>	
<b>Fishing area</b>	

Species:

**No. Caught & Released (Kg)**

Fish Species	Quantity (Kg)
1.	
2.	

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Other fish caught (other than the list):

**No. Caught & Landed (Kg)**

Fish Species	Quantity (Kg)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
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#### Species list and allocated No.

Species	No.	Species	No.
Sword fish	1	Needleskin Queenfish	24
Black Marlin	2	Great Amberjack	25
Blue Marlin	3	Almaco Jack	26
Blue Marlin	4	Rainbow Runner	27
Sailfish	5	Blue Runner	28
Spearfish	6	Blacktip reef Sharks	29
Yellowfin tuna	7	Other sharks	30
Dogtooth tuna	8	Rays	31
Skipjack tuna	9	Sheer fish/King mackeral	32



Kawakawa	10	Barracuda	33
Frigate mackerel	11	Mahi Mahi	34
Bullet tuna	12	Wahoo	35
Giant Trevally	13	Cobia	36
Bluefin Trevally	14	Groupers	37
Golden Trevally	15	Snappers	38
Gold Spot Trevally	16	Treadfin Salmon	39
Bigeye Trevally	17	Barramundi	40
Blacktip Tervally	18	Oxeye Tarpon	41
Horse eye Trevally	19	Lady fish/Giant Herring	42
Black Trevally	20	Featherback	43
Bluger Trevally	21	Snakehead (loola/Araganga)	44
African Pompano	22	Mahseer (Leala)	45
Giant Queenfish	23	Catla	46

**Form A**

**(Regulation 9)**

License No. – \_\_\_\_\_ for office use



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**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
**Application for operation Licence for Recreational Fishing**

**1. Details of the Applicant/ Company**

a	Name of the Applicant/Company	
b	Address	
c	NIC Number/Passport No.	
d	Nationality	
e	Individual/ Company Contact Number	
f	Individual/ Company E-mail Address	
g	Vessel Reg. No.	
h	Fishing Techniques/ Methods to be used	

Above furnished data and information are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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I hereby agree to engage in recreational fishery activities as per the conditions of Recreational Fishing Management Regulations No. .... of 2023 under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 02 of 1996.

.....  
Signature of the owner

.....  
Date

For office use only

**Fisheries Inspector Recommendation**

My No. ....

District Fisheries Office .....

Director General,  
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Colombo 10

The boat referred to in this application is recommended for issuance of recreational Fishing License

.....  
Name of the F.I

.....  
Signature of the F.I

.....  
F.I. Division

.....  
Date

**Assistant Director Recommendation**

District .....

Reference the application appearing overleaf, I certify that,

1. The sum of Rs. .... was received as the registration fee for which the receipt No. .... dated ..... has been issued,
2. The particulars given overleaf are correct according to my knowledge.

.....  
Name of the  
Asst. Director

.....  
Signature of the  
Asst. Director

.....  
District

.....  
Date

**Form B**

**(Regulation 10)**

**License No. -**



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**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES**

**Fishing Operation Licence for Recreational Fishing**

Licence for engaging in recreational Fishing Operations is hereby granted to Mr./Ms./Company .....  
..... of .....  
in terms of the provisions of Recreational Fishery Management Regulations No. .... of 2023  
under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

1. Registration Number of the boat for which the Licence is issued:  
.....
2. Authorized Fishing Operations under the Licence  
.....  
.....  
.....
3. District where boat is landed .....

This licence unless earlier cancelled or revoked will be valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.  
The licence shall be produced for inspection whenever called upon to do so by any authorized officer.

.....  
Date

.....  
Director General

## Form C

(Regulation 14)



## APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A FISHING BOAT ENGAGED IN RECREATIONAL FISHING

## 1. Full Name and Address of the Owner/s

Name in full .....

National ID No. ....

...

If company BRC No. ....

Address .....

E mail address .....

Website .....

## 2. Particulars of the Fishing Boat

Type of Boat	Make of Hull			Length	Years of Construction	Boat Yard No.	Manufacture (Foreign/Local)
	Timber	FRP	Metal				

## 3. Propulsion

Oars	Sail	Out Board Motor	In Boarder Motor	Stern Drive	Jet

## 4. Engine details

Make	Serial No.	Horse Power	Fuel Type

## 5. Facilities of the boat

Seats availability	Yes	No.	If yes of Seats	
Permanent Canopy			Temporary canopy	
Cabin			No. of life jackets	
GPS			Radar	
SSB Radio			Compass	
Rod holder			Diving bottle holder	
Other				

6. Place where the boat is kept

Type of Landing site	Name of the place	District	District code
Harbour			
Anchorage			
Landing site			
Marina			
Boat Yard/ Stacker			

7. Insurance Details

Insurance Certificate Number	
Insurance Company	
The date of Insurance	

I/ we hereby certify that the above described boat had not been registered earlier as a recreational fishing boat, that above furnished particulars are true and accurate in all respects and that I/we am/are the actual owner/s of the boat.

.....  
Signature of the owner

Name of the witness .....  
Address .....  
National Identity Card Number .....  
Signature of the witness .....

**For office use only**

Assistant Director  
District

Reference the application appearing overleaf, I certify that,

1. The sum of Rs. .... was received as the registration fee for which the receipt No. .... dated ..... has been issued.
2. After the inspection conducted by me regarding the above mentioned boat on ..... I found that It was completed in every respect and that it was found to be in a seaworthy condition,
3. The engine/s mentioned overleaf is/are ..... Horse power/s of ..... type/s and number/s .....
4. The particulars given overleaf are correct according to my knowledge.

.....  
Name of the F.I

.....  
Signature of the F.I

.....  
F.I. Division

.....  
Date

14A

I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2023.02.13  
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My No. ....

District Fisheries Office .....

Director General .....

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Colombo 10

The boat referred to in this application is recommended for registration/has been registered.

.....  
Name of the  
Asst. Director

.....  
Signature of the  
Asst. Director

.....  
District

.....  
Date

Type of boat

Traditional non-motorized boat	NTRB	Day boats with inboard engines	IDAY	Yatch	
Traditional motorized boat	MTRB	Fiberglass boat with outboard motor	OFRP	Offshore multiday boat	IMUL

**Form D****(Regulation 15)**

Certificate of Registration



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES &amp; AQUATIC RESOURCES – SRI LANKA

Certificate of registration of a Fishing Craft

**PART I****Certificate of Registration**

1. Registration No. / Name of Boat
2. Date of first Registration
3. Description of the Fishing Craft
  - a. Material used for construction of hull;
  - b. Date of Construction;
  - c. Type of Craft;
  - d. Length and width of craft;
  - e. How Propelled (oar, sail, engine);
  - f. If motorized-
    - i. Engine Number;
    - ii. Type;

- iii. Horse Power;
- iv. Fuel used;
- g. Displacement and Space (No. of Crew)

- 4. Boatyard Number
- 5. Fishing equipment
- 6. Navigation & Communication equipment

.....  
Director General.  
Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources.

Date : .....

## PART II

### Description of Owner

- 1. Full Name of the Owner
- 2. N.I.C. Number
- 3. Address
- 4. Full Name of the Owner
- 5. N.I.C. Number
- 6. Address
- 7. Insurance Policy No. and Date of Insurance
- 8. Normal place where the craft is kept

Date :

Director General,  
Department of Fisheries & Aquatic  
Resources.

## PART III A

### Amended Description of the Craft

(Replacement of engine or motorizing a non-motorized craft)

Type	Serial No.	Horse Power	Fuel used	Date installed	Endorsement

**PART III B**

**Amended Description of the Craft**

(Other amendments-change in equipment, dimensions, name, etc)

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Endorsement</i>

**PART IV**

**Transfer of Craft**

**First Transfer**

1. Full Name of the Owner  
N.I.C Number  
Address  
Full Name of the Owner  
N.I.C. Number  
Address
2. Normal place where the craft is kept
3. Date of Transfer

.....  
Director General,  
Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

Date : .....

**Second Transfer**

2. Full Name of the Owner  
N.I.C Number  
Address  
Full Name of the Owner  
N.I.C. Number  
Address
2. Normal place where the craft is kept
3. Date of Transfer

.....  
Director General,  
Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources.

Date : .....



**PART V**

**Annual Renewals**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Paid (Rs.)</i>	<i>Receipt No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Endorsement</i>

EOG 02-0137