**Vessel Registration**

**Questions and Answers**

1. **Why are DFO and TC working together on vessel registration?**

DFO and TC recognize that working together on vessel registration helps everyone stay safer on the water. That’s why DFO and TC are taking steps to verify that every active commercial fishing vessel is properly registered with both departments.

1. **Is DFO doing anything else on safety at sea?**

DFO signed an agreement with TC to promote the safety at sea of commercial fish harvesters, recognizing that both TC and DFO, including the Coast Guard, have a role to play in ensuring the safety of fish harvesters. As part of this, DFO and TC manage safety at sea action plans and work together in many ways. For example, TC is consulted as part of DFO’s regional activities to ensure that fishery management includes safety considerations.

1. **Is this urgent?**

We are requesting your timely response to our correspondence. As everyone prepares for upcoming fishing seasons, DFO and TC are actively collaborating to ensure that all fishing vessels are duly registered. Your attention in this matter by the deadline will help us achieve this collective goal and ensure enhanced safety on the water for everyone.

1. **Why now? Has DFO changed any requirements on vessel registration?**

No - DFO has not changed any regulation or policies on vessel registration. The request for information you received is to collect information as part of our enhanced collaboration effort with TC. The information will permit DFO to search vessel registration information held by TC.

1. **Why do fishing vessels need to be registered with both Departments? Isn’t one registration enough?**

Registration under both systems is necessary to ensure that fishing vessels meet the requirements of both Departments. As a harvester, it is important that you ensure that the fishing vessel you are using is registered with both Departments before you set out to fish.

1. **Do DFO and TC need the same information about fishing vessels?**

The vessel registration requirements of both Departments are different. While similar information in some instances may be collected by both Departments, the information requirements of both Departments in many ways are very different in order to meet the unique and different Departmental requirements.

1. **If the fishing vessel I am using is not currently registered with TC, when should it be registered? How is this done?**

In order to use a vessel to fish your licence(s), you need to ensure the fishing vessel is also properly registered with TC. The responsibility for registering the fishing vessel with DFO lies with the licence holder. The responsibility for registering the fishing vessel with TC lies with the vessel owner. If you are not the vessel owner, you should confirm that the vessel owner has properly registered the fishing vessel before you use it to fish. Further information on TC’s vessel registration requirements can be found on their website <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/vessel-licensing-registration/canadian-register-vessels>

1. **How long does it take to register a vessel with TC? What are the steps?**

The vessel owner will need to complete and send in the appropriate forms to TC for processing. To register a fishing vessel, visit the TC website at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/vessel-licensing-registration/registering-canadian-register-vessels-first-time-registration>

To see the time it takes to process the application, please click here: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/transparency/marine-service-standards-2018-2019>

1. **What if the fishing vessel is less than 15 gross tons? Does it need to be registered with both Departments?**

Fishing vessels powered with a propulsion motor of 10 horsepower or more must be registered with both Departments and hold both a Vessel Registration Number (VRN) issued by DFO, and a Transport Canada Official Number (ON) issued through TC’s Canadian Vessel Registry. Further information on TC’s vessel registration requirements can be found on their website: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/oep-vesselreg-registration-menu-2311.htm>.

1. **Will DFO and TC make this one registration process in the future?**

The vessel registration requirements of both Departments are different. There are no plans to create a single registration process in the future. Licence holders are responsible to ensure that vessels used for commercial fishing are registered with DFO. Vessel owners are responsible to ensure that these vessels are also registered with TC.

1. **Will you be sharing information with TC?**

DFO may share information with TC. The intent of this exercise is to ensure that all commercial fishing vessels on the water are registered with both Departments.

1. **Will my privacy be maintained?**

All information that is collected from you and used as part of this project will comply with the *Privacy Act*. The Privacy Notice Statement which is included on DFO’s National Online Licensing (NOLS) website (link below) and which also applies here, provides further details in this regard.

https://fishing-peche.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/

1. **How do I locate the TC Official Number (ON) for a fishing vessel?**

There are a few ways you can locate the TC ON for a fishing vessel. You can search the fishing vessel on TC’s Canadian Register of Vessels either by vessel name or vessel owner name at:

<https://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/Saf-Sec-Sur/4/vrqs-srib/eng/vessel-registrations/search>

If you are not the vessel owner you can also contact the vessel owner in order to obtain the number. If you are having difficulty and require assistance, you can also contact TC at 1-800-419-9569.

1. **I’m not the vessel owner. Should I send this to the vessel owner to answer?**

We are specifically requesting DFO licence holders who have registered vessels (or their delegated representative) to complete and return the requested information. If you do not own one or more of fishing vessels registered to you, we ask that you or your delegated representative contact the vessel owner in order to confirm the TC ON then submit the information for each fishing vessel currently registered to you.

1. **How do I send you my information?**

DFO is requesting that information be sent either by email at sas-sem@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by fax at 1-833-928-1536. You can fill in the questionnaire, then either copy and paste it in the body of your return email, or you can save it and return it as an email attachment. Or if you prefer, you can also print and fax the completed questionnaire at 1-833-928-1536.

1. **I have other questions. Who can I contact?**

If you need further assistance, you can contact DFO at 1-902-478-3702 in order to speak to an agent.

1. **Will TC be contacting me?**

TC regularly reviews vessel registration information and may contact vessel owners in cases where vessel registration information requires updating. As part of this, TC will take into consideration any information shared by DFO in regards to missing or inconsistent vessel registration information.

1. **What if I transfer or register new fishing vessels in the future? How will you collect this information?**

DFO is currently adjusting some of the procedures and forms used to collect information related to vessel registrations and transfers. The information we are requesting from you today for vessel(s) currently registered to you will also be consistently collected in the future. This is needed to ensure that our information holdings remain up to date going forward.