FORM C-continued

2. This licence is issued subject to the following conditions, that is-

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waters;

(c) licensed for shrimping shall operate in waters shallower than 18 metres.

11. Size of fish of certain species

It shall be an offence to catch, land, retain, sell, expose or offer for sale or be in possession for the purpose of sale of seafish of any description being fish of smaller size than such size as may be prescribed in relation to seafish of that description.

12. Minimum size

The minimum size in relation to seafish for a lobster shall be 7 cm in length, for a crab 6 cm in length, measured from the tip of the beak to the end of the flap of the tail when spread as far as possible flat.

13. Mesh opening not to be obstructed

(1) No opening on each mesh in any part of a trawl net shall be obstructed or diminished.

(2) Where a topside chafer is used to reduce wear and tear it shall-

(a) be made of twine of the same material and size as that of the cod-end of any single knotless, twine material;

(b) have its mesh three times that of the cod-end;

(c) be fastened to the forward lateral and rear edges of the cod-end or along the four edges mesh of the chafer which coincides with 3 meshes of the cod-end.

(3) A canvas or netting may be attached to the underside of the cod-end of the trawl net along the front edge and sides.

14. Regulation of the size of fish for sale

(1) The Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research may publish before 31st January of every year, the minimum total length of fish catchable during the year, for each of the commercial species taking into consideration-

(a) the 5 per cent retention length of the legal cod-end mesh;

(b) the fish demand and supply situation; and

(c) health of fish resources.

(2) It shall be an offence to catch, or retain for ultimate sale, fish less than the minimum total length published in respect of each species.

(3) The minimum size limits of fish imposed by regulation 12 of these Regulations shall not apply to catches made on behalf of the Federal Government by approved research cruises.

15. Trawling at night

(1) When trawling at night, a vessel shall, when in doubt, switch on a search light mounted on the top of the fore castle in order to pick out or avoid the set net of artisanal fisherman.

(2) The master of a licensed fishing vessel, which has damaged the gear set of another vessel in water or involved in a gear dispute, shall notify the Federal Department of Fisheries which shall arbitrate in the matter.

(3) The decision of the Federal Department of Fisheries on the matter in dispute shall be binding on all parties to the dispute except when a suit is filed in a court by either party within 7 days of the decision.

17. Enforcement

For the purposes of enforcing the provisions of these Regulations, a person duly authorised by the Minister shall have power to-

(a) signal the master of any vessel to slow down or bring for boarding; or

(b) board any vessel and inspect its licence to fish; or

(c) search any part of the vessel and its hold for evidence of infringement of any of the provisions of these Regulations; or
18. Signal

(1) A signal required to be given under these Regulations shall be given by flag, lamp, loud-speaker, horn or radio.

(2) Upon receipt of a signal, the master of the vessel shall cause to be put in appropriate place, a ladder, manrope or safety line strong enough to facilitate boarding by an enforcement officer or authorised observer.

19. Possession of undersized lobster or crab

No person shall keep on board either dead or alive or offer for sale any lobster or crab less than 7 cm or 6 cm respectively.

20. Release of berried crabs, etc.

Any berried crab or lobster caught by whatever means shall be returned to the waters.

21. Navigation of fishing vessel

No master of a licensed fishing vessel shall navigate such vessel within one half of a nautical mile of set gear approximately so marked as to be visible from a half mile away.

22. Offence

Any person who contravenes the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties prescribed under the Act.

23. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires-

"Act" means the Sea Fisheries Act 1992;

"mesh size" means the mean of 25 consecutive top side meshes running parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cod-end measured when wet immediately after use.

24. Revocation

The Sea Fisheries (Fishing) Regulations are hereby revoked.

[L.N. 54 of 1972.]

25. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the Sea Fisheries (Fishing) Regulations.

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SEA FISHERIES (FISH INSPECTION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE) REGULATIONS

[S.1. 22 of 1995.]

under section 14

[Commencement.]

1. Fishing vessel certification

(1) No person shall use a vessel for fishing or for transportation of fish unless the vessel displays a certificate that has been issued by Fish Inspection as such certifying that the vessel meets the requirements of Schedule I of these regulations.

[Schedule I.]