

Explanation. – For the purposes of this rule, –

- (a) “Export Inspection Council” means the export certification body established under section 3 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963);
- (b) “catch certificate” means the certificate issued by the Marine Products Export Development Authority or such other authority as specified by the Central Government from time to time, accompanying a consignment of fish or fishery products to provide accurate and verifiable information concerning fish passing through the supply chain;
- (c) “Marine Products Export Development Authority” means the authority established under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 (13 of 1972).

11. Mid-sea transhipment. – (1) The operator or owner of fishing vessel with an access pass may undertake mid-sea transhipment to a mother vessel in accordance with the applicable measures of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation concerned and the relevant guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India as promulgated from time to time.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this sub-rule, “mother vessel” means a vessel, also termed as a carrier vessel, receiver vessel, or factory vessel, that supports fishing vessel at sea by receiving, storing, processing, and preserving catch, and transporting it to port, and may provide fuel, food, water, medical needs of crew, or other assistance.

(2) The operator or owner shall intimate the Issuing Authority, the Registrar of the fishing vessel and the Indian Coast Guard at least forty-eight hours in advance, providing details of the mother vessel, quantity of catch, species, and transhipment date, time, and coordinates, in Form III.

12. Catch reporting. –(1) The fishing vessel shall furnish such fishery data to the Registrar of the fishing vessels, Authorised Officer, Issuing Authority, or other authorities in such format and at such periodical intervals as may be specified by the Central Government.

(2) The Central Government may specify the format for voyage reports for different types of fishing vessel, which may, *inter alia*, include the details of fish catch, fish species, numbers, weight, fishing areas, and trip duration.

13. Fishers and crew identity. –Every fisher and crew member on board a fishing vessel in the exclusive economic zone shall carry a QR-coded Aadhaar card or a Marine Fishers Digital Identity Card, as specified by the Central Government, from time to time.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this rule, “fisher” means fishermen and fisherwomen engaged in fishing and fishing-related activities for livelihood or profit, includes fish workers.

14. Prohibition of destructive fishing, juvenile fishing, and no-fishing zones. –The Central Government, in consultation with the States and Scientific Institutions, shall regulate, restrict, and prohibit in the exclusive economic zone of India (beyond territorial waters), the following activities, namely: -

- (a) use of dynamite, explosives, poisons, noxious chemicals, or other destructive materials or methods, including pair trawling or bull trawling;
- (b) use or installation or operation of surface or submerged artificial lights or LED lights, fish light attractors or any other light equipment with or without generator on mechanised fishing vessel or motorised fishing craft for trawling, purse-seining, and gill netting operations;
- (c) capture of juvenile fish or related activities;
- (d) fishing in ‘No Fishing Zones’ or such ‘designated areas’ as notified by the Central Government from time to time; and
- (e) fishing during the ban period imposed by the Central Government from time to time.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this rule, “juvenile fish” means a species of fish that is below the scientifically determined minimum legal size as specified in the Fisheries Management Plan(s) specified from time to time.

15. Prohibition of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. –The Central Government shall issue a National Plan of Action to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, which the vessels operating in the exclusive economic zone shall comply with.

16. Compliance with Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and International Instruments. – The fishing and fishing-related activities shall be in compliance with relevant conservation and management measures of the concerned Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to which India is a party.

17. Enquiry to be made by Adjudicating Officer. –(1) Where an Authorised Officer has reason to believe that any fishing vessel is being, or has been, used in contravention of any of the provisions of these rules or any of the conditions of the access pass, he shall make a report thereof to the Adjudicating Officer.

(2) On receipt of a report from the Authorised Officer regarding contraventions of the provisions of these rules or conditions of the access pass, the Adjudicating Officer shall hold an enquiry after giving all the parties concerned a reasonable period of being heard.

18. Violations and penalties. – (1) The Adjudicating Officer shall, after enquiry under sub-rule (2) of rule 17, decide whether any person has used or caused or allowed to be used any fishing vessel in contravention of any of the provisions of these rules or any of the conditions of the access pass, he may by order in writing, impose such penalty, as follows:–

- (a) In the case of motorised and mechanised fishing vessel of less than 15 metres of overall length, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees, and for subsequent contravention, a penalty which may extend to fifteen thousand rupees.
- (b) In the case of mechanised fishing vessel of more than 15 metres of length and less than 24 metres of overall length, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten thousand rupees, and for subsequent contravention, a penalty which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.
- (c) In the case of mechanised fishing vessel of 24 metres and above of overall length, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding thirty thousand rupees, and for subsequent contravention, a penalty which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

(2) In addition to any penalty that may be imposed under sub-rule (1), the Adjudicating Officer may direct to–

- (a) suspend the access pass of the fishing vessel for a specified period not exceeding six months; or
- (b) cancel or revoke the access pass, as the case may be.

(3) In case of suspension of an access pass, the operator shall immediately ensure that fishing or fishing-related activities of such vessel is stopped until the suspension is revoked in writing.

(4) The suspended or cancelled access pass shall no longer be used and the status of such suspended or cancelled access pass shall be updated on ReALCRaft by the Issuing Authority.

(5) The pecuniary penalties imposed by the Adjudicating Officer under these rules shall be recovered by the State as arrears of public revenue due on land, with the exercise of powers of the Collector and District Magistrate under the land revenue laws of the respective State.

19. Appeals. –(1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Issuing Authority under rules 4 or 5 or against any order passed by the Adjudicating Officer under rule 18, may appeal to the Appellate Authority within thirty days of the communication of the order.

(2) The Appellate Authority shall, hear the appeal after giving a reasonable opportunity to the parties, issue a final order expeditiously.

(3) The Appellate Authority may *suo motu* review the order passed by the Adjudicating Officer, against which no appeal has been filed within the period of three months, to ensure legality, propriety, or procedural regularity, provided no prejudicial order is passed without giving the affected person a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

20. Powers of Adjudicating Officer and Appellate Authority. –The Adjudicating Officer and Appellate Authority, while holding the inquiries, shall require the owner or operator or the Authorised Officer, to produce the documents and records of the fishing vessel, and obtain any such evidence related to the offences as deemed fit.

21. Remittance of revenue. - All revenue earned under these rules shall be remitted to *Bharat Kosh* or as may be specified by the Central Government.

[F. No. UI/251/10/2025]

ACQUINO VIMAL, Jt. Secy.

Form I

Application Format for access pass
(See rule 4 (1))

1.	1. Name of the owner /FFPO/SHG/Fisheries Cooperative/Company 2. Registration No.	:	
2.	3. Address of the owner /FFPO/SHG/Fisheries Cooperative/Company 4. GST No./CIN (in case of companies) 5. Aadhaar Card No. 6. PAN Card No. 7. Mobile No. 8. Email 9. Website	:	
3.	10. Name of the fishing vessel	:	
4.	11. Registration No. of Fishing Vessel: 12. Port of Registry: 13. IMO No. (as applicable) 14. International Call Sign (as applicable) 15. MMSI No. / AIS No. (as applicable) 16. Transponder / VMS No. 17. Crew Capacity 18. Type of fishing or fishing-related activities proposed: (i) Purse Seine fishing (ii) Long Line fishing (iii) Gillnet cum Longline fishing (v) Gillnet fishing (vi) Pole and line fishing (vi) Handline fishing (vii) Trolling fishing (viii) Mid-water pelagic trawling (ix) Squid jigging, (x) Others please specify	:	
5.	19. Access pass duration	:	From To
	20. (i) Base port, and (ii) Proposed area of fishing		
6.	21. Specifications of fishing vessel: -		
	(i) Overall length	:	
	(ii) Breadth	:	
	(iii) HP of the engine	:	
	(iv) Gross tonnage	:	
	(v) Net tonnage	:	
	(vi) Fish hold capacity	:	
	(vii) Engine details (viii) Fuel capacity	:	
	(ix) Year of built	:	

Declaration

We, M/s [Name], undertake that our fishing vessel [vessel Name] intended for 'access pass' shall not engage in destructive fishing practices, such as pair trawling (bull trawling), juvenile fishing, use of artificial light or LED light for fishing, or fishing of endangered or protected species as notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The fishing vessel shall operate strictly using the type of fishing methods and in areas of fishing permitted under the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India Rules, 2025 and shall comply with the rules and applicable conservation and management measures adopted by the concerned Regional Fisheries Management Organisation such as Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and other such regional or international instruments to which India is party. In case of violation, the Government may impose penalties as per the rules and suspend or cancel the access pass.

I confirm that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

.....

Signature of the Applicant

.....

Date and Place

Form II

Format for access pass*(See rule 4 (6))***Access pass No.: [Number]****Valid from: [Date] To: [Date]****Fresh/Renewed**

Fishing vessel and operator details

1. Name of the owner :
2. Address and mobile No :
3. Name and registration No. of the fishing vessel, type of fishing permitted :
4. Port of registry :
5. Overall length :
6. Base port :
7. Area of fishing :
8. Call sign :

Terms and conditions of access pass

This fishing vessel is permitted to operate solely for the type of fishing and area specified, within the exclusive economic zone of India, under the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India Rules, 2025 and to follow the stipulations applicable under these Rules including regulation of Fishing and Fishing-related Activities (rule 3), Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (rule 4), Fisheries Management Plans (rule 6), Mid-Sea Transshipment (rule 9), Catch Reporting (rule 10), Fishers and Crew Identity (rule 11), Prohibition of Destructive Fishing, Juvenile Fishing, and No-Fishing Zones (rule 12), Prohibition of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (rule 13), Compliance with Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and International Instruments (rule 14), and Fishing of endangered species as notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Any violation of these conditions or the provisions of the rules or orders or instructions issued under these rules, which shall result in penalties, including suspension or cancellation of the access pass.

Issuing Authority

Seal and Signature

Date of Issue:

Place:

Form III

Details of mother vessel, quantum of catch, and species for transhipment*(See rule 11 (2))*

1. Name of the mother vessel :
2. Access pass No. :
3. Name of the donor vessel/s :
4. Access pass No/s. :
5. Name and contact of the owner of the mother vessel :
6. Proposed date and time of transhipment :
7. Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude) :
8. Port of landing :

Details of catch

Name of species	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Preservation method

Declaration

We declare that the above details are true and accurate and that the transhipment complies with all relevant rules, including the Reserve Bank of India Guidelines and the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India Rules, 2025.

Signature of the Donor Vessel Owner
Name

Signature of the Mother Vessel Owner
Name