

No.21001/17/2007-Fy(Ind)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated the 11th September, 2008.

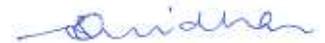
Office Memorandum

Subject:- Manning of deep sea fishing vessels.

The issue regarding manning of deep-sea fishing vessels has been under consideration of the department for some time. The conditions of the Letter of Permission (LOP) issued to the deep-sea fishing vessel operators stipulate a minimum of 25% Indian crew on board at the time of commencement of operations. The foreign crew is required to be phased out at the rate of 15% per annum.

This department has received several representations from deep-sea fishing industry that these conditions are extremely hard to meet due to acute shortage of trained crew in the country. The matter has been considered and examined thoroughly by the Inter-ministerial Empowered Committee (EC) on marine fisheries, and the EC has advised that the department may, subject to the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act consider relaxation in condition pertaining to engagement of crew in order to encourage un-interrupted operations of deep-sea fishing vessels as this condition is acting as a barrier to deep sea fishing operations. Further, since the deep sea fishing industry in the country is at a nascent stage, steps need to be taken to remove such artificial barriers towards exploitation of our deep-sea resources.

In view of this situation and the recommendation of the EC, it has been decided, with the approval of the competent authority, that the LOP holder deep-sea fishing vessels will be allowed to operate with a minimum 25% Indian crew without any further conditions. Subsequently, the Department would work out a scheme, in consultation with the Industry, to post apprentices onboard fishing vessels to develop requisite skills and experience for future operations.



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Distribution: As per the list

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2. Fishing Trawlers and Allied Industries Owners' Welfare Asso., Vishakhapatnam

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