

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF A PURPLE NOTICE

Requesting country: Norway

Date of publication: 06/09/2013

Last update on: 08/01/2015



MODUS OPERANDI

Type(s) of offence:	<p>This Purple Notice contains updated information on the vessel Snake which was identified operating under the new name of Viking on the 21st March 2014. Snake was subject to INTERPOL Purple Notice issued on the 6th September 2013.</p> <p>The following information has been provided to the INTERPOL General Secretariat. All information stated as current is believed to be true at the time of publication.</p> <p>Norway and the INTERPOL General Secretariat are seeking more information on the location and activities of the fishing vessel that is now believed to operate under the name Viking. Information is also sought on the individuals and networks that own, operate and profit from illegal actions of the vessel. For the purpose of this notice the vessel shall hereby be referred to as Viking.</p>
Date of the offence:	21 March 2014
Place of offence:	Malacca Straits, 05°50'N, 099°07'E
Country of offence:	Norway

Description of modus operandi: Object/device/concealment method/procedure.

Viking has changed its name, national registration ('flag') and other identifying characteristics at least three times since May 2013 allegedly to avoid the detection of prohibited fishing activities.¹ By repeatedly changing these characteristics, the owners and operators of **Viking** demonstrate a willingness to avoid 'blacklisting' and associated sanctions.² They are suspected of violating national laws and regulations, as well as international conventions, and otherwise engage in fraud and fisheries-related crimes.

The current name and nationality of **Viking** is uncertain. Please refer to pictures included hereafter for a visual identification.

Date of last known incident: 21 March 2014

Location of incident: Malacca Straits, 05°50'N, 099°07'E

¹ A majority of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) maintain lists of vessels identified by their member states as having engaged in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities within an area of high seas regulated by the RFMO. Vessels listed as IUU vessels ('blacklisted') are known to have engaged in or supported fishing activities in contravention to RFMO rules.

² 'Blacklisted' vessels are subject to restrictions and sanctions imposed by the member states of the RFMO. Such sanctions include: prohibiting the blacklisted vessel from interacting with a state's own vessels; denying it entry to a state's ports; or denying it a license to fish in state waters. In this manner, blacklisting limits a vessel's ability to operate in a given area.

Additional information:

Vessel history since May 2013:

March 2014 ‘Viking’

Date:	21 March 2014	Reported by:	New Zealand Authorities
Name:	Viking (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Painted on hull
Nationality:	Nigeria (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Homeport ‘Lagos’ painted on hull
IMO number:	8713392	Evidenced by:	Sea-web
Radio call sign:	Not known (most recently 5AWC and 5AWP)	Evidenced by:	Not applicable
MMSI:	Not known	Evidenced by:	No AIS data available



Malacca Strait

21 March 2014

New Zealand authorities

December 2013: 'Octopus-1'

Date:	December 2013	Reported by:	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Name:	Octopus-1 (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Painted on hull
Nationality:	Sierra Leone (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Homeport 'Freetown' painted on hull
IMO number:	8713392	Evidenced by:	Sea-web
Radio call sign:	Not known	Evidenced by:	Not applicable

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Confidential police information has been removed

MMSI:	Not known	Evidenced by:	Not applicable
			
<p>Fishing vessel named Octopus-1, ex Berber, ex Snake, presently Viking Sighting by Australian Customs and Border Protection Services 4 December 2013</p>			

October 2013: 'Berber'

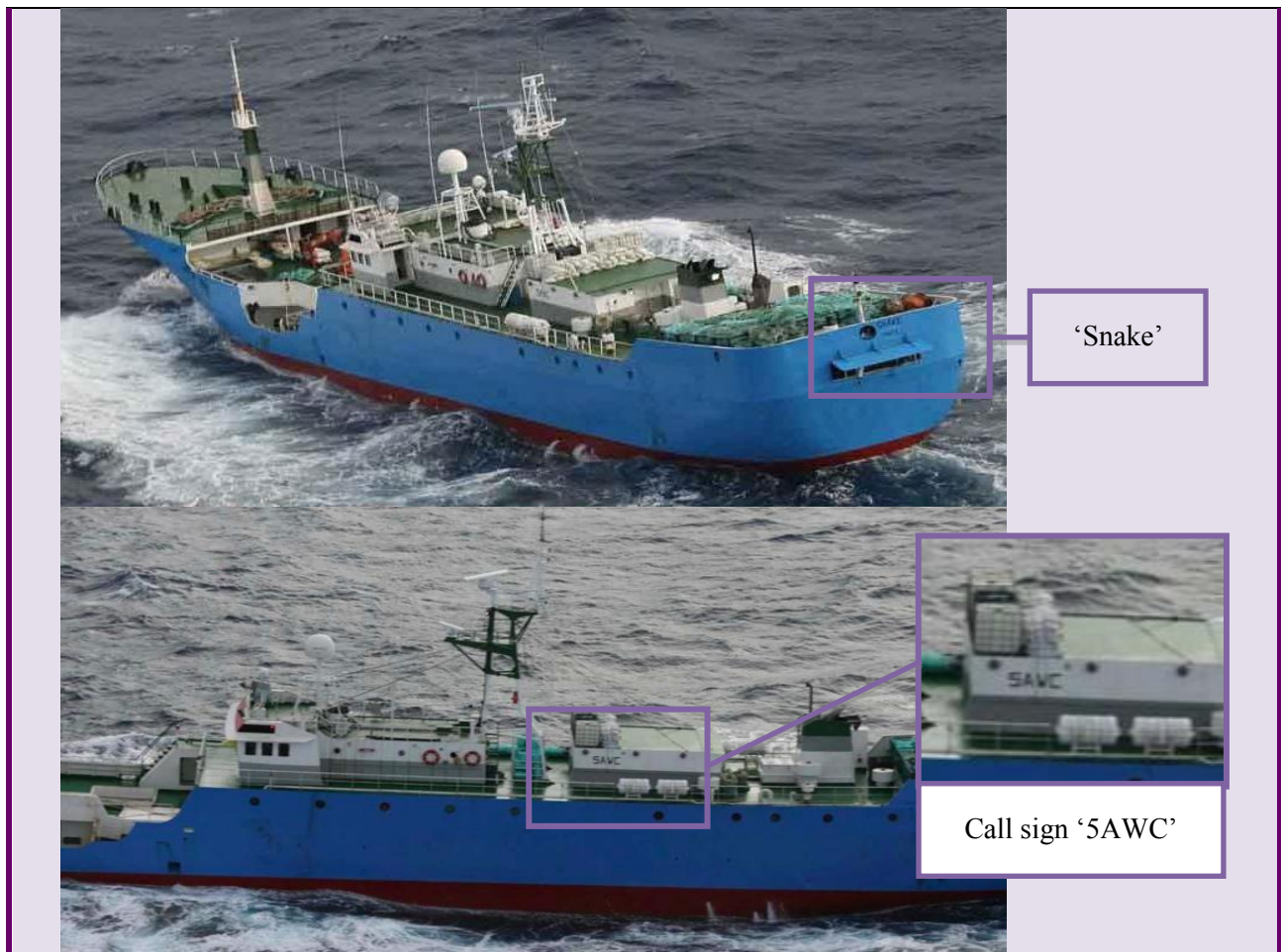
Date:	October 2013 (first presented in port)	Reported by:	INTERPOL
Name:	Berber (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Suspected forged registration documents
Nationality:	Libya (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Suspected forged registration documents
IMO number:	8713392	Evidenced by:	Sea-web
Radio call sign:	5AWP (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Forged registration documents
MMSI:	Not known	Evidenced by:	Not applicable

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May 2013: 'Snake'

Date:	May 2013	Reported by:	INTERPOL
Name:	Snake (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Painted on hull
Nationality:	Libya (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Homeport 'Tripoli' painted on hull
IMO number:	8713392	Evidenced by:	Sea-web
Radio call sign:	5AWC (alleged)	Evidenced by:	Painted on vessel
MMSI:	Not known	Evidenced by:	Not applicable



Commercial History

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Name History			Name	Flag History			Flag
Date				Date			
Latest	Dec	2014	VIKING	Latest			Nigeria
14	Nov	2014	Berber	27	May	2013	Libya (false)
27	May	2013	Snake	13	Jun	2012	Libya (alleged)
14	Jun	2012	Octopus-1	14	June	2012	Mongolia
	May	2011	Pion		May	2011	Honduras
	Dec	2010	The Bird		Dec	2010	Mongolia
	Sep	2009	Chu Lim		Sep	2009	Togo
	June	2008	Yin Peng		Jan	2006	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
	Feb	2007	Thor 33		Jan	2005	Equatorial Guinea
	Mar	2007	Ulyses		Jul	2003	Uruguay
	Jan	2006	Gale			2003	Togo
	Jan	2005	South Boy			1987	Japan
	Jul	2003	Piscis				
		1987	Choya Maru No. 5				

International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) history

International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) History			
Date			IRCS
27	May	2013	5AWP (date on Libyan Registry document)
13	Jun	2013	5AWC
06	Aug	2012	JVAM1
25	Nov	2011	HQXJ4
05	Apr	2011	JVHV4
05	May	2006	HMWM7
03	Jun	2005	3CM2167
09	Jul	2003	CXCM

Recommended precautionary action:

All information about the vessel **Viking** is of interest, especially the following:

1. Identification information, including the vessel's current name, Call Sign, IMO number, MMSI number and hull color.

2. Photos of the vessel in its current configuration while in port, conducting fishing or transshipment activities, etc.
3. *If seen fishing*: summary of activities, location, species targeted, fishing methods used, duration of activities, etc.
4. *If seen transshipping at sea*: summary of activities, location, information on and photos of the associated vessel(s), etc.
5. *If seen in port*: information on entry permit and cargo (type, quantity and customer) on board or unloaded, purpose of entry, documentation of catch (log books and catch certificates), details of shipping containers or consignment numbers, etc.
6. Names and company registration details/national identification details of current and past owners, operators and crew.
7. Information related to all past and ongoing legal proceedings conducted against the owners or operators of the vessel, or associated companies.
8. History of transactions related to fuel, port bills, etc. that may lead to beneficial owners.
9. Any information that could help establish links with other vessels, owners and operators.

This information must be exchanged with INTERPOL to update databases and analysis files with activities of this type.