



International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

Marina Towers, 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize C.A

“IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE”

BELIZE’S ANNUAL REPORT TO SPRFMO

Dated: 20th January 2011

By

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Our fleet which fishes on the high seas is registered by the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) and is licensed by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Matters of Policy are determined jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Director General of IMMARBE. IMMARBE is dedicated to providing **“an efficient, cost effective quality ship registration service and to enforce national laws and international conventions which have been ratified by Belize in the interests of safety at sea and the protection of the environment”**.

For your guidance, Belize has ratified the FAO “Compliance Agreement”, the “Fish Stocks” Agreement and the “IPOA-IUU”, the provisions of which have been incorporated into our High Seas Fishing Act, 2003. This serves to formalize our commitment to the elimination of activities which diminish the effectiveness of conservation measures.

PART I (Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics)

Section I: Annual Fisheries Information

We have only one mid-water trawler presently operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area which is targeting Horse Mackerel and Chub Mackerel. Its catches for 2010 has been submitted to the secretariat on a month basis and is attached once again for ease of reference:

The below table shows a summary of catches in this area for the period 2004 to 2010 in metric tons

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alfonsino	229.11	102.40	101.30	61.12			
Grenadier	524.52						
Orange Roughty	914.37	505.56	200.32	331.90			
Horse Mackerel		866.96	481.22	12584.79	15245.41	5680.89	2240.30
Chub Mackerel					1103.96	295.20	21.36
Squids	680.64	824.97					
Mackerel				965.56			

We also have 2 other mid-water trawlers which are licensed to operate within the Convention Area (see the attached list) but have not done so in 2010. The data on our historical fisheries for 2001-2006 was provided to the Commission on 6th June 2008. We also indicated that we had other vessels that operated in the area prior to 2001 but the data/information for these

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vessels was not readily accessible. We had no detailed reporting system and vessel monitoring prior to 2003.

Belize has limited the gross tonnage of vessels actively fishing in the area in accordance with paragraph 6 of the interim measures.

For your guidance, none of our vessels have fished in waters within any EEZ or under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area.

- **Fishing Vessel Licensing**

In addition to compliance with the requirements of the Registration of Merchant Ships Act as amended in 1996, the Registration of Merchant Ships (Fishing Vessels of 24 meters in length and above) Safety Regulations, all new registrations as well as fishing vessels which are already registered are required to apply for a High Seas Fishing License by completing the relevant Application Form detailing, inter alia, a description of the vessel, its fishing gear, area of fishing, the species to be targeted, method of processing etc. Vessels which wish to fish in breach of conservation measures or for species for which Belize has no catch quotas in areas where quotas apply, are not registered or licensed. Furthermore, the High Seas Fishing License itself specifies as a condition that “Vessel has not and shall not engage in any activities which may undermine the effectiveness of International Conservation and Management Measures applicable to the authorized area of fishing”.

- **Vessel Monitoring**

We have successfully implemented VMS Reporting on all our High Seas fishing vessels which operate outside the territorial waters of Belize, irrespective of size, i.e. both below and above 24 meters. It is based on Inmarsat, utilizing Inmarsat C, Inmarsat Mini C and Inmarsat D+ equipment. Our provider is Pole Star Space Applications Limited who utilizes an automatic, real time internet based service called Purplefinder Vessel Management Solutions. This reporting system complies with 03-14 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area. For example, the margin of error is +/- 20 meters with a confidence level of 99% and it is tamper proof. This reporting system complies with the 03-14/04 Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area-- as well as SPRFMO's Vessel Monitoring, Minimum Standards for the Collection, Reporting and Verification of Data, dated September 2007.

The VMS position reports for the vessel “VIKTORIYA”, which is the only active vessel operating in this area in 2010, is attached. The monitoring is carried out by the Fishing Administration Department at IMMARBE's Head Office in Belize. It enables us, inter alia, to track a fishing vessel's compliance with the geographical limits contained in its Fishing License and to check the position data contained in the Fishing Logs and Fishing Vessel Voyage reports.

Section II: Research and Statistics

- **Inspection Schemes and Compliance**

For the purpose of ensuring compliance, surveillance is conducted on a regular basis or as a result of an investigation by boarding at sea or in port, plant checks, observer

teams, and requesting assistance from other Government/Organizations as necessary. We do not currently have any at sea observer program in the SPRFMO Area.

- **Research Activities**

We do not currently conduct any research activities within the Convention Area.

- **Statistical Data Collection System in Use**

Fishing vessel Owners/Operators are required to submit data of their fishing operations based on our format for such reporting which includes a detailed Fishing Log and Fishing Vessel Voyage Report showing information regarding positions, times/dates, sets, catches by species including weights and sizes, start times, number of hooks etc., details of discards, by-catches etc., species unloaded, names of ports or details of transshipments. We are currently in the process of implementing a log book program for all our vessels operating worldwide.

Our commitment and effective policies in combating IUU fishing are well known to all in the industry. As a small developing nation, all we in Belize are requesting is to secure a meaningful/viable fishing presence/participation in the SPRFMO in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Measures dated 14th November 2009.