

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: BELIZE

Date: 6/3/2013

Please NOTE: this document is composed of 3 sections to report on the implementation of IOTC resolutions

Part A. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 12-01 On The Implementation Of The Precautionary Approach
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
3. Resolution 12-03 On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence
Belize Flagged vessels use a bounded logbook for recording of Catch and Effort data in the IOTC Area of Competence. Additionally, fishing vessel logs and voyage reports are completed and submitted to this Administration on a monthly basis. Belize is in the process of developing an electronic catch reporting system.
4. Resolution 12-04 On The Conservation Of Marine Turtles (Including in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution)
This resolution is duly noted and is respected. Belize's report on the Conservation of Marine Turtles was sent to the IOTC Secretariat on 28/11/2012.
5. Resolution 12-05 On Establishing A Programme For Transshipment By Large-Scale Fishing Vessels
Belize has in place a protocol for transshipment at sea in accordance with this resolution. Our transshipment protocol is currently being reviewed and will be revised to strengthen our control over transshipment activities. A list of carrier vessels is being compiled for submission to the Commission.
6. Resolution 12-06 On Reducing The Incidental Bycatch Of Seabirds In Longline Fisheries
In force in July 2014
7. Resolution 12-07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information
This resolution is duly noted and respected. A record of Belize Flagged vessels that are licensed to fish for IOTC species was sent to the Commission on 15/02/2013.
8. Resolution 12-08 Procedures On A Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) Management Plan
The Belize flagged vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence are all long line vessels and consequently do not use FADs. Nonetheless, this resolution is duly noted and is respected.

9. Resolution 12-09 On The Conservation Of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught In Association With Fisheries In The IOTC Area Of Competence

A legally binding Fishing Vessel Circular has been issued and disseminated to all Belize Flagged vessels in accordance with this resolution to promote the conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae).

10. Resolution 12-10 To Promote Implementation Of Conservation And Management Measures Already Adopted By IOTC

This resolution is duly noted and is respected. Belize has contacted the IOTC Secretariat to express its desire to participate in capacity building initiatives.

11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

The list of vessels targetting tropical tunas during 2006 and swordfish and albacore during 2007 have been reported to the Commission in accordance with this resolution. Belize has also developed and submitted its Fleet Development Plan to the Commission.

12. Resolution 12-12 To Prohibit The Use Of Large-Scale Driftnets On The High Seas In The IOTC Area (Including a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence)

A legally binding Fishing Vessel Circular has been issued and disseminated to all Belize Flagged vessels which prohibits the use of large-scale driftnets.

13. Resolution 12-13 For The Conservation And Management Of Tropical Tuna Stocks In The IOTC Area Of Competence (Including a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee)

This resolution is duly noted and is respected. The VMS records for all Belize Flagged vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence during the closure period is attached.

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

This recommendation is duly noted and is respected.

Part B. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

Belize has ensured the implementation of all relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at the last annual meeting. This includes the implementation of new regulations promoting the conservation of Thresher Sharks, the revision of National Fisheries Legislation, implementation of new licensing requirements, the revision of Belize's National Plan of Action for IUU and efforts to develop a National Inspection and Observer Programme. All other resolutions relating to our long line fleet has been respected.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section March 2013 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme*

CPCs which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.

As Belize is not a coastal state within the IOTC Area of competence, it does not import or export bigeye tuna within this area.

- Recommendation 05/07 Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels

The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken to meet the minimum management standards when they issue fishing licenses to their "authorised fishing vessels".

Belize submits a list of "authorized fishing vessels" (AFVs) annually in accordance with this Recommendation; and further reports any changes to its list of AFVs during the course of the year as the list may change.

- Resolution 10/06 On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, information on how they are implementing this measure and all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by them. This is to include details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC Area of Competence.

This resolution is duly noted and is respected. A legally binding Fishing Vessel Circular has been issued and disseminated to all Belize Flagged fishing vessels to mitigate the incidental by-catch of sea-birds in long line fisheries. Belize submits its report of interaction with sea-birds annually, the last of which was submitted to the Commission on 28/11/2012. A list of mitigation measures utilized by Belize Flagged vessels have also been submitted to the Commission.

- Resolution 10/10 Concerning market related measures

For CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish products, or in whose ports those products are landed or transhipped, should report, a range of information (e.g. information on vessels / owners, product data (species, weight), point of export) annually.

As Belize is not a Coastal State within the IOTC Area of Competence, we do not import tuna or tuna-like species within this area.

- Resolution 11/04 On a Regional observer scheme

CPCs shall provide to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee annually a report of the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.

The revision of Belize's National Legislation has taken into consideration the requirements of this resolution and its passage will provide the legal framework for the implementation of a National Observer Scheme. In the interim, this Administration has begun the development of the protocols and manuals that will govern this observer programme.