

Report of Implementation for the year 2013

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 2 APRIL 2014

Reporting CPC: Belize

Date: 28/3/2014

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 13/01 On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures
Belize has implemented all those Conservation and Management Measures pertinent to our flagged vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence through the use of legally binding circulars in an effort to ensure full compliance with these measures.
2. Resolution 13/02 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence^a
This resolution is duly noted and respected. The template of the Authorization to fish was sent to the Secretariat on March 5th 2014.
3. Resolution 13/03 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence^a
Belize flagged vessels use a bounded logbook for recording of catch and effort data in the IOTC area of competence. Additionally, fishing vessels 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 report system to replace the bounded logbook.
4. Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
5. Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
6. Resolution 13/06 On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed Fisheries
This resolution is duly noted and respected. Belize has in place the necessary protocol for the conservation of shark species in accordance with this regulation.

7. Resolution 13/07 Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC Area of Competence and access agreement information ^a

This resolution is duly noted and respected.

8. Resolution 13/08 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specifications of catch reporting from fad sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species

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 respected.

9. Resolution 13/09 On the conservation of albacore caught in the IOTC Area of Competence

This resolution is duly noted and respected.

10. Resolution 13/10 On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework

This resolution is duly noted and respected.

11. Resolution 13/11 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence

This resolution is duly noted and respected.

Note: ^a indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be requested at secretariat@iotc.org

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 that 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 Thresher Sharks, the revision of National Fisheries Legislation, implementation of new licensing requirements, the revision of Belize's National Plan of Action 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 April 2014 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 [A template report exists]).

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes ☒ Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 31/03/2013

No ☐

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☒

Additional information:

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 necessary.

- 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 vessels to mitigate the incidence by-catch of seabirds in long line fisheries. Belize submits its report of interaction with sea-birds annually, the last of which was submitted to the commission on (01/29/2014). 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. *[A template report exists].*

The report on import, landing or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2013 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes ☐

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): [Click here to enter text.](#)

No ☒

The report on import, landing or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2013 is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☒

Additional information:

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.

This 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.

- Resolution 12/04 On marine turtles

CPCs shall report to the Commission, 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 respected.

- Resolution 12/05 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels

Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transshipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transshipment). *[A template report exists].*

The details on transshipment in ports for 2013 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes ☐

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): [Click here to enter text.](#)

No ☒

The details on transshipment in ports for 2013 are attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☒

Additional information:

This Resolution is duly noted and respected. There were no transshipment activities by Belize flagged vessels in the IOTC area of competence during the year 2013.

- Resolution 12/12 To Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area

CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence.

This Resolution is duly noted and respected. Note that the effective implementation of this Resolution was achieved through the legally binding Fishing Vessel Circular FVC-003-2010.

- Resolution 12/13 For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence

CPCs flag states shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this Resolution through VMS, and will provide a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee. *[A template report exists].*

The summary of VMS records has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat for:

Longline vessels ☒

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 14/03/2013

Purse seine vessels ☐

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): [Click here to enter text.](#)

The summary of VMS records is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☒

Additional information:

This Resolution is duly noted and respected. Note that Belize does not have the capacity to introduce purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence and accordingly, does not have any such vessels operating in this area.

- Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

This resolution is duly noted and respected. Note that the effective implementation of this Resolution is achieved through the legally binding Fishing Vessel Circular FVC-14-02.

- Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

This Resolution is duly noted and respected.

- Resolution 13/07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

For Government to Government access agreement in existence prior to the entry into force of this resolution, where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters in their EEZ in the IOTC Area for species managed by IOTC through a CPC-to-CPC agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement:

- Shall submit copy of the access agreement,
- Shall submit information concerning these agreements (paragraphs 3a, b, c, d, e, f, g),

A report template exists and can be requested at secretariat@iotc.org

As Belize is not a coastal State in the IOTC Area of competence, it does not have any access agreements with any other Governments granting access to their flagged vessels to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.