

Report of Implementation for the year 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Reporting CPC: BELIZE

Date: 02/26/2015

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 14/01 On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
2. Resolution 14/02 For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
3. Resolution 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers
This resolution is duly noted and respected.
4. Resolution 14/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence^a
An updated list of all Belize flagged vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence in 2014 was submitted to secretariat with all required pertinent information.
5. Resolution 14/05 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.
6. Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels^a
This resolution is duly noted and respected.

<p>Note: ^a indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be downloaded at http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates</p>



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 National Fisheries Legislation, implementation of new licensing requirements, the revision of Belize's National Plan of Action for IUU, the implementation of a National Inspection and Observer Programme. All other resolutions relating to our long line fleet during the year 2014 has been respected. Belize has taken the decision to withdraw from the IOTC area of competence for the coming year, until further notice.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section February 2015 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): [Click here to enter text.](#)

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 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. *[A template report exists].*

The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2014 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 transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2014 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.

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. 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. This Administration has developed an observer programme for our entire fleet.

- 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 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 turtles.

- Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transhipment 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 transhipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transhipment). *[A template report exists].*

The details on transshipment in ports for 2014 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 2014 are attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional information:

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. However, our long line fleet did not conduct any transshipments through out the year 2014.

- 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.

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

- 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.

Belize registered vessels in operation in the IOTC area of competence are long line vessels and do not use purse seine gears for fishing activities. A legally binding fishing vessel circular has been issued and disseminated to all Belize flagged vessels on the conservation of cetaceans.

- 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.

Belize registered vessels in operation in the IOTC area of competence are long line vessels and do not use purse seine gears for fishing activities.

- Resolution 14/05 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 within the IOTC Area of Competence, we do not issue license to foreign flag vessels to fish in our EEZ.