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APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS BELIZE



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE "IMMARBE" Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks Belize City, Belize <u>tel:501-223-5026/223-5031</u> fax:501-223-5070/223-5048 email: <u>immarbe@btl.net</u>

Dear Mr. Angannuzi:

Thank you for your message of 7th February 2007. We wish to confirm that since our departure from the last IOTC meeting which was held in GOA our government have set in motion the procedure for the ratification of the IOTC Convention and both our Cabinet and Prime Minister have actually approved the ratification of the Convention and the matter now rest with our Senate and it will be approved by them at their next meeting.

However, as a precaution, we would like to make an intermediate application for the renewal of our Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status in time for the next meeting in the event that the administrative process is not completed by that time. We hope that it would be unnecessary and that the procedure would be completed by that time, if not, we would like to submit our application for renewal. Therefore, as mentioned earlier please advise if there are any procedures for the submission of a renewal of our application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status or should we follow the same format as our last submission?

Awaiting your earliest response to this matter.

Regards,

Valerie Savery Fishing Vessels Manager IMMARBE- Belize tel: 501-22-35026/35031/35047 fax:501-22-35070/35048



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Dear Mr. Anaganuzzi,

Further to our correspondence of 7th February 2007, we wish to attach herewith our Aplication dated 9th February 2007 for Renewal of Belize's Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status together with the following supporting documents.

- 1. Attachment 1 List of vessels which operated in the IOTC area in 2006
- 2. Attachment 2 Catch and Effort Statistics for 2006
- 3. Attachment 3 List of Fishing Vessels Currently Licensed to operate in the IOTC Area.
- 4. Attachment 4 Belize's Confirmation of Commitment in respect of the Commissions conservation and management measures.

Please confirm safe receipt of the above.

Regards,

Valerie Savery Fishing Vessels Manager IMMARBE- Belize tel: 501-22-35026/35031/35047 fax:501-22-35070/35048

APPLICATION DATED 9TH FEBRUARY 2007 FOR RENEWAL OF BELIZE'S COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS

Notwithstanding the fact that we have already commenced the procedure for the acceptance of the IOTC Agreement which should be forthcoming before the 11th Session of IOTC, we submit hereunder our application for renewal of our Cooperating non-Contracting Party status in the event that the administrative process is not completed by that time.

Request Letter

Paragraph 2 of the resolution

Any non-Contracting party requesting the status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall apply to the Secretary. A request must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at the meeting.

At the 10th Session of the IOTC in Goa 22nd -26th May 2006 Belize was granted the Status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party Status valid for one year. We now wish to officially apply for the renewal of the aforementioned status.

Information provided to support the application

Paragraph 3 of the resolution

Non-Contracting Parties requesting the status of Co-operating Party shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the commission:

- a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the IOTC Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, names of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas.
- b) All the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to IOTC based on the resolutions adopted by IOTC.
- c) Details on current fishing presence in the IOTC Area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and
- d) Information on any research programs it may have conducted in the IOTC area and the results of this research.

(a) Data on Historical Fisheries in the IOTC Area

The responsibility for reporting of catch, effort, size frequency and vessel record data lies with the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE).

Catch and Effort Data for tuna and tuna-like species have been reported by us as follows:

Year	No. of Vessels	Catch (es)	Comments
2000	55 exclusively in the IOTC Area 60 partly in the IOTC Area	Data not conclusive	
2001	38	9242 m/t	Catches of tuna only reported
2002	24 exclusively in the IOTC Area	23660 m/t	Catches included tuna and tuna-like species
2003	8	1375 m/t	Catches of tuna and tuna-like species

2004	20 exclusively in the IOTC Area and 7 vessels partly in the IOTC Area	1207m/t	Only 14 of the 20 vessels targeted tuna and tuna-like species. Vessel sizes are smaller than in previous years.
2005	11 exclusively in the IOTC Area	1143 m/t	Catches include tuna, tuna-like species and sharks
2006	7 vessels exclusively in the IOTC Area 1 vessel partly in the IOTC area	948 m/t 37 m/t	Catch total for tuna & tuna-like species. Catch total for sharks.

Nominal Catches Industrial purse seiners and long liners under our flag have been operating in the Indian Ocean since 1993. However, many of the fishing vessels registered at IMMARBE from 1993 onwards which have/are operating in the IOTC area had already been operating there for many years prior their registration with us.

Name and Characteristics of fishing vessels

Information on identification and characteristics of long liner and purse seine vessels has been reported to IOTC as follows:

- 2000 and 2001: names of vessels, type, gear, area, capacity
- 2002, 2003, 2004: complete information on identification and characteristics.
- 2005: complete information on identification and characteristics for vessels which operated in the IOTC area in 2005
- 2006: complete information on identification and characteristics for vessels which operated in the IOTC area in 2006 (Attachment 1)

(b) Data reported pertaining to IOTC resolutions and recommendations

Apart from catch and effort data, in accordance with Resolution 98/04 we have submitted list of our long line vessels (all sizes) operating in the Indian Ocean including their identification and characteristics during the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. Catch and effort data for 2006 is attached (Attachment 2).

(c) Evidence of current fishing presence in the IOTC Area.

Please see Attachment 3 on details of our current fishing presence in the IOTC Area.

(d) Research programs conducted in the IOTC area and the results of the research.

We have not conducted any such research hitherto.

Confirmation of commitment in respect of the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures.

Paragraph 4 of the resolution

An applicant for Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall also:

a) Confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures and,

b) Inform IOTC of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures

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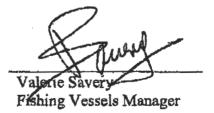
We re-attach our Statement of Commitment as well as details of the measures which we have taken to ensure compliance by our vessels - Attachment 4

We look forward to your organization's support by granting the renewal of Belize's Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status in the unlikely event that the acceptance of the IOTC Agreement is not completed in time for the 11th Session of IOTC in May 2007.

With kind regards,

Angelo Mouzouropoulos FICS, FCI Arb

Director General



Page 5 of 16

lS	T OF VESSE	LS WH	CH OP	ERATED	IN THE IOT	C AREA IN	N 20	06									
No.	Vessel Name	Reg. No.	Call Sign	Flag Country	Previous Flag	Vessel Type	(a) LOA	(b) LBP	GRT	Name and Address of Owners	Name and Address of Operator	HP	Hull	Year Built	Shipyard	Area of Operation	Carrying Capacity
1	Long The	289910028		Belize	Cambodia	Long Line	43.3	37.7	242	Charng Her Fishery Co., Ltd.	Hung Lian Hui	650	Steel	1972	Pong Kuo Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	200 m/t
						-				No. 110, Shu Ren Road, Chien Chen Dist.,	No.24, Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin				Co. Ltd		-
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	Yuan Siang, Pingtung Hsien,						
											Chinese Taipei						
2	Shin Chyun	280510166	V3YG8	Belize	Indonesia	Long Line	26.5	23.09	88	Liu, Chiu-Li	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	1999	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	52 m/t
										No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist					Co., Ltd		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
3	Yung Chan 1	280410163	V3ZH2	Belize	Japan	Long Line	46	43.32	449	Cheng Ding International Trading Co., Ltd	Cheng Ding International Trading Co., Ltd	UNK	Steel	1990) Kabushiki Kaisha Niigata	South Indian Ocean	100 m/t
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	Hsin Chi Tsai 280110074 V3OQ5									Samoa	E. 2nd Road, Chien Chen Dist, Chinese						
	Hsin Chi Tsai 280110074 V3OQ5										Taipei						
4	sin Chi Tsai 280110074 V3OQ5	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	25.2	22	82	Ms. Ko Tu Su-Ching	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Shing Koo Building Ship &	North and South	50 m/t		
										2 Fl., No.27 Fish Port, North 1st Road,					Co., Ltd	Indian Ocean	
										Chien Chen Dist., Chinese Taipei							
5	Chen Ming No.1	280110099	V3TK7	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	29	25.5	98	Chen Ming Fishery Co., Ltd.	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Shing Koo Building Ship &	South Indian Ocean	80 M/T
										No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist.,					Co., Ltd		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
6	Shin Fa	280210104	V3VB4	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	27	21	97	Chi, Su-Ching	SAME AS OWNERS	750	Fiberglass	2002	Lane Lung Glass Fiber	South Indian Ocean	80 M/T
										No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist					Shipbuilding		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
7	Ruey I Shyang No.9	280110090	V3MQ9	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	27.6	23.9	80	Hung Liang Hui	SAME AS OWNERS	640	Fiberglass	2001	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	36 m/t
										No.24 Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin Yuan Siang					Co., Ltd		
										Pingtung Hsien, Chinese Taipei							
8	Jin Shyang Yih 666	280110100	V3VD	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	29.3	25.52	99	Jin Shyang Yih Fishery Co., Ltd	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	75 m/t
										Rm 1B 4F, No.87 Hou-Ping Road, Chien					Co., Ltd		
										Chen Dist, Chinese Taipei							
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IOTC FORM 3A: CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean

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IOTC FORM 3A: CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean



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IOTC FORM 3A: CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean



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		SPECIES (H	CIMS					303	936	189		З.		253	217	067	
A CONTRACT	BOAT SIZE WE	CAYCHBY	ALB	\$\$20;		21587		9380	1490	8330		19723		12300	17750	19620	460
	and a second		BET	575	690				50E	232	1190				280		770
TV2T OF BOAT BOAT SIZE RANCE	BCAT SYZE TYPE		YFT	1607	6641	525	1536			7527	1610	139	1358			1762	2340
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	ave 10		LONG	0 5 1	0 5 5	0 6 7	0 5 3	0 5 8	0 S 0	0 's 0	0 5 7	0 6 7	0 5 7	0 5 8	0 6 0	0 4 7	0 4 9
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			QUA- DRANT		5	5	2	~	-1	2	2	2	~	4	3	2	61
			SIZE	5	-	9	m	5	y	s.	-	9	10		9	In	-
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Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean



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Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean

IOTC FORM 3A: CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS

(FLEETS PROVIDING LOGBOOK INFORMATION)

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a Sentiste		sou N					-		-									
UNT OF CHORT		UNTY OF	(and go	SAI			391						400					
TOTAL NUTHER OF TRIFS		Circa	CATCH BY SPECIES (Record the species three stylia code in top	SHARK	378					704	929						1,234	320
NUMBER OF LOCBOOKS RECOVERED			pecias tirce (SKU											9430	103		
	DAEBAGE	THE R. P. LE	Record the s	MARLIN 5									509					
			V SPECIES (QMS		160	186	225			2210		477	277		112		163
		BOAT SEE SEE	CATCH B	ALB		1600	6191	5752	7565		33260	8888	6042	5320	£00	19079		15327
	17 No.			BET		190	273				1066	1095	482					T2L
TYPE OF BOAT	BOAT SIZE RANGE	EOAT SIZIA TVPE		YFT	413		285	5681	73.	732	3775	720	722	05E7	410	152	185	985
				TOTAL CATCH														
	RELET	(IN) A		EFFORT	47	10	26	8	đ	20	31	16	36	30	24	26	18	21
NG BRITZ		EAR LONEH	- - - - -	LONG-	0 5 7	0 6 4	0 5 4	0 5]	0 7 0	0 5 7	0 6 6	0 6 6	0 5 2	6 5 3	0 5 7	0 7 0	0 5 7	0 6 8
REVORTING COLNTRY	FLAG COUNTHY	TYPE OF GEAR	AREA	LATI- TUD	2 9	2 4	8 7	-0	2 0	2 0	2 2	2	4	1 2	2 0	5	5 5	11
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S.C.	8	H		SIZE	~	ф Щ	vo Heiti	9	2	~	2	90 	2	9 8	-	2	2	ک ا
PAGE		TEAN 2006	10	HLNOW	SEPTEMBE	SEPTEMBE	SEPTRABE	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBE	NOVEMBE	NOVEMBE	NOVEMBE	NOVEMBE





Tuna Statistics in the Indian Ocean

IOTC FORM 3A: CATCH AND EFFORT STATISTICS



	:															
MARING DAVE		XION CONTRACTOR	SCHOOL	TYPE PURSE SEINERS ONLY)												
UNT OF FURT	THOSE	UNIT OF CATCH	ip rowh	SAI		218							219			
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES		CATCH	CATCH BY SPECIES (Record the species three alpha code in top rout)	SHARK						712	260					
NUMBER OF LOCBOONS RECOVERED		CATCH MONITORED	pecies durae B	SKU				3840								
	AEEVG	ETT CASH	(Record the s	MARLIN		685							586			
		MDTHS	SY SPECIES	QWS	1560	471	358				344	198	629			
PISHNO	Pack Area of	BOAT SIZE UNITS	CATCHI	ALB	15930	14779	5800	-	\$595		25438	24846	10621			
	6 E.	CINE		BET	1240	704			16		457	385	622			
TYPEOU BCAT	BOAT SIZK RANGE	TANE		TTY		1001	11.68	280	02	604	94	295	635			
				TOTAL CATCH				Lange T								
	liter	CUNE		EFFORT	30	29	95	6	12	u	29	ł£	31			
	NJRV DE	GIAE DOTIO		LONGL	0 6 8	0 5 1	0 5 3	9 6 8	0 7 0	0 5 7	0 0 0	0 7 0	0 5 9	 **====	• •	
REPORTING COUNTRY	FLAG COUNTRY	Type of Gear	AREA	LATI- UD	1 9	2 1	0 1	6 1	2 1	2	50 7	89	2 1	 		
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	CORD-	H C		6IZE	6	و	9	0	2	9		ŝ	S .			
PAG		YEAR		MONTH	NOVEMBE	NOVEMBE	DECEMBEN	DECEMBE	DECEMBER	DECEMBE	DECEMBE	DECEMBE	DECEMBER			

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LIST OF FISHING VESSELS CURRENTLY LICENSED TO OPERATE EXCLUSIVELY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS AT 9TH FEBRUARY 2007

							(a)	(b)						Year			Carrying
No.	Vessel Name	Reg. No.	Call Sign	Flag Country	Previous Flag	Vessel Type	LOA	LBP	GRT	Name and Address of Owners	Name and Address of Operator	HP	Hull	Built	Shipyard	Area of Operation	Capacity
1	Long The	289910028	V3GA2	Belize	Cambodia	Long Line	43.32	37.7	242	2 Charng Her Fishery Co., Ltd.	Hung Lian Hui	65) Steel	1972	Fong Kuo Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	200 m/t
										No. 110, Shu Ren Road, Chien Chen Dist.,	No.24, Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin				Co. Ltd		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	Yuan Siang, Pingtung Hsien,						
											Chinese Taipei						
2	Shin Chyun	280510166	V3YG8	Belize	Indonesia	Long Line	26.5	23.09	8	8 Liu, Chiu-Li	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	1999	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	52 m/t
										No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist					Co., Ltd		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
3	Hsin Chi Tsai	280110074	V30Q5	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	25.2	22	8	2 Ms. Ko Tu Su-Ching	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Shing Koo Building Ship &	North and South	50 m/t
										2 Fl., No.27 Fish Port, North 1st Road,					Co., Ltd	Indian Ocean	
										Chien Chen Dist., Chinese Taipei							
4	Chen Ming No.1	280110099	V3TK7	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	29	25.5	9	8 Chen Ming Fishery Co., Ltd.	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Shing Koo Building Ship &	South Indian Ocean	80 M/T
										No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist.,					Co., Ltd		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
5	Shin Fa	280210104	V3VB4	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	27	21	9	7 Chi, Su-Ching	SAME AS OWNERS	75) Fiberglass	2002	Lane Lung Glass Fiber	South Indian Ocean	80 M/T
										No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist					Shipbuilding		
										Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							
6	Ruey I Shyang No.9	280110090	V3MQ9	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	27.6	23.9	8	0 Hung Liang Hui	SAME AS OWNERS	640) Fiberglass	2001	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	36 m/t
										No.24 Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin Yuan Siang					Co., Ltd		
										Pingtung Hsien, Chinese Taipei							
7	Jin Shyang Yih 666	280110100	V3VD	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	29.3	25.52	9	9 Jin Shyang Yih Fishery Co., Ltd	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	2001	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	75 m/t
										Rm 1B 4F, No.87 Hou-Ping Road, Chien					Co., Ltd		
										Chen Dist, Chinese Taipei							

LIST OF VESSELS CURRENTLY LICENSED TO OPERATE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS WELL AS THE PACIFIC OCEAN

															Year			Carrying
No.		Vessel Name	Reg. No.	Call Sign	Flag Country	Previous Flag	Vessel Type	LOA	LBP	GRT	Name and Address of Owners	Name and Address of Operator	HP	Hull	Built	Shipyard	Area of Operation	Capacity
	1 Der V	Wei No.686	280010055	V3HJ	Belize	China	Long Line	47.66	43.26	47	2 Der Weil Fishery Co., Ltd.	SAME AS OWNERS	1000	Steel	1974	Kabushiki Kaisha Ichikawa	South Indian Ocean	250 m/t
											No. 95, Tsuey Her Street, Chien Chen Dist.,					Zosensho, Japan		
											Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.							
	2 Wan	n Jia Men 99	280110087	V3LV	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	32.12	28.2	14	0 Captura Todo de Belize Co., Ltd	SAME AS OWNERS	1100	Fiberglass	2001	Jin Jiahn Lih Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	150 m/t
											Av. 3, 13 Street, Puntarenas, Costa Rica					Co., Ltd		
	3 Wang	ng Jia Men No.88	280010052	V3GI3	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	29.3	25.52	9	9 Captura Todo de Belize Co., Ltd	SAME AS OWNERS	823	Fiberglass	2000	Chien Renn Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	90 m/t
											Av. 3, 13 Street, Puntarenas, Costa Rica					Co., Ltd		
	4 Chin	n Jui Yng No.11	280410162	V3YO8	Belize	Georgia	Long Line	32.06		27	6 Macalluns S.A.	SAME AS OWNERS	UNK	Fiberglass	1984	Higashikyusyu Shipbuilding	South Indian Ocean	120 m/t
											No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist					Co., Ltd		
											Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei							

(a) LOA = Length Overall in meters

(b) LBP = Length Between Perpendiculars in meters in accordance with definition of "length" as defined by Article 2 Section 8 of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1996 and Protocol of 1998 as well as Article 2 Section 8 of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969 and recorded on ship registration documents.

Belize's Confirmation of Commitment in respect of the Commission's conservation and management measures

We wish to re-apply for the status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party Status and submit hereunder the following:

(a) Statement of Commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures.

We wish to confirm that Belize is committed to uphold and enforce your Commission's conservation and management measures. This is part of an overall policy to comply with the requirements of all RFMOs in whose areas we have a presence. This is evidenced by the fact that in recent years, we have not only been cooperating with IOTC but also with ICCAT, IATTC, CCAMLR, NAFO, NEAFC. Furthermore, Belize is an active member of the following organizations: FAO, CRFM (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism), OSPESCA (Organizacion del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano), OLDEPESCA (Organizacion Latinoamerica de Desarollo Pesquero), PROARCA (Programa Ambiental Regional para Centroamerica), COPACO (Comision de Pesca para el Atlantico Centro Occidental). Also,

- 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." It is a Gold Corporate sponsor of Belize's Audubon Society which became the first Belizean member of the World Conservation Union, the world's largest environment organization, based in Switzerland.
- The Fisheries Department of our Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives is committed "to provide the country and the people of Belize with the best possible management of aquatic and fisheries resources with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management."
- On 8th July 2005 Belize issued Instruments of Adherence/Acceptance of the following.
 - The ICCAT Convention
 - The 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement
 - The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement
 - The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

The above emphasizes Belize's commitment not only to IOTC's conservation and management measures but to those of all RFMOs worldwide. We are a Contracting Party to ICCAT, Cooperating non-Contracting Party of IATTC and NEAFC and our application to become Cooperating non-Contracting Party of WCPFC has already been submitted. For your guidance, at the 3rd Session of WCPFC which was held in Apia, Samoa in December 2006, all Belize's fishing vessels which are operating in their Convention area were placed on their Authorized Vessel List.

(b) Measures taken to ensure compliance by our vessels

In recent years, we have briefly informed you of the measures which we have taken to ensure compliance by our vessels. However, for the sake of good order, we would like to inform you in greater detail about the latest measures which we are currently enforcing:

- As we have already informed you in earlier correspondence, our High Seas Fishing Act 2003 came into force on 1st August 2003. This Act embodies the requirements of the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Fish Stocks Agreement insofar as these relate to the Flag State in relation to its High Seas Fleet and Co-operation with other States in this regard. Briefly, the Act provides for:
 - Part III Section 4: the mandatory licensing of all high seas vessels in compliance with the abovementioned Agreements
 - Section 3(2): the "monitoring, control and surveillance of the operations of fishing vessels of Belize pursuant to Articles V and VII of the Compliance Agreement."
 - Part IV: International Co-operation which includes the provision of information to international organizations as well as the exchange of information with other States in compliance with Articles V and VI of the Compliance Agreement, Sections 28-32 of the IPOA as well as Articles 20 and 21 of the Fish Stocks Agreement.
 - Part V: Enforcement of the Act which incorporates the provisions of the Merchant Ships (Disciplinary Regulations 1999) S.I. Number 56 of 1999. This enables us to impose fines and other penalties in cases of any breach of this Act or other applicable national or international Conventions/Agreements.
 - Part IV: Prohibition and Offences which, inter alia, prohibits activities which undermine the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures.

• 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 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." All licenses are valid for one year. Renewal is dependent upon the license holder having adhered to all conditions of this license.

• Vessel Monitoring (VMS)

We have successfully implemented VMS Reporting on our fishing vessels. It is based on Inmarsat, utilizing Inmarsat C, Inmarsat Mini-C and Inmarsat D+ equipment. Our provider is Pole Star Space Applications Limited who utilize an automatic, real time, internet based service called Purple Finder Vessel Management Solutions. This reporting system complies with the recommendations of conservation organizations such as ICCAT.

• Catch and Effort Reporting

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 showing information regarding positions, time/dates, catches, discards etc. as well as a Fishing Vessel Voyage Report showing dates, quantities and species unloaded, names of ports or details of transshipment.

• Inspection Schemes and Compliance

For purpose of ensuring compliance, we have a system of surveillance conducted by random inspections or as a result of an investigation by: boarding at sea or in port, plant checks, observer teams, requesting the assistance of other Governments/ organizations as necessary.

• Overseas offices/Inspectors

In the exercise of our regulatory and enforcement functions, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) Head Office in Belize is supported by its 32 offices overseas as well as a team of 147 inspectors worldwide.

We believe that by the actions which we have taken and the results thereof, we have fully demonstrated not only our commitment to but also our effective implementation of conservation and management measures.

In our view, the interests of conservation are best served by encouraging the participation and compliance of as many fishing nations as possible. As you are aware from the information which we have submitted to you, we have expended much time, effort and resources in order to properly regulate our fishing activity. At the same time, we wish to emphasize that the funds derived from our fishing vessel activity are an important source of income/ foreign exchange for our small, developing nation. We therefore look to your organization to support us by granting Belize renewal of our Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status.