
**NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

BELIZE

The Secretariat received the following documents relating to this matter.

1. Fax dated 29th January 2009 with reference to IOTC Reporting Requirements for Members and Cooperating Parties together with the following attachments.
 - Attachment 1 - List of vessels that have fished for tropical tunas, albacore and swordfish in the IOTC Area during 2008
 - Attachment 2 - Fleet Development Plan for Belize – Albacore
 - Attachment 3 - Current Presence in the IOTC Convention Area
 - Attachment 4 – Provisional Catch and Effort Statistics
 - Attachment 5 – Data on Length of Fishes Caught by Belize Flagged Fishing Vessels in the IOTC Convention Area - 2008
2. Report by Belize on Compliance with IOTC Circular 2009-01 and Article X of the IOTC Agreement.

These documents and attachments are reproduced in the following pages. Note, the Secretariat has not included the data attachments (3 and 4) in this report.

Fax

To:	Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi Executive Secretary- IOTC	From:	Angelo Mouzouropoulos Director General
		Pages:	
Fax:	248-22-43-64	Date:	29 January 2009

Dear Mr. Anganuzzi:

Re: IOTC Reporting Requirements for Members and Cooperating Parties

In compliance with the requirements of the Guide for Reporting, we submit hereunder the following:

1. Since the 12th Session of IOTC, we have implemented the following conservation and management measures:
 - The requirements of Resolution 08/02 “On Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large Scale Fishing Vessels” including notification of the introduction of the regional observer program with effect from 1.1.09. On 13th August 2008, we submitted our data for transshipments at sea under the then Resolution 06/02 for the 10 transshipments effected in 2007. There were no transshipments at sea in 2008.
 - In compliance with Resolution 08/03 and 05/08 “On Reducing the Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in Longline Fishery and “on Sea Turtles”, as advised in our submission dated 23rd April 2008, we issued a Fishing Vessels Circular FVC-08/02 in compliance with this Resolution. Furthermore, as stated in our email dated 7.7.08, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Resolution 08/03, we have 2 vessels that are fishing south of 30 degrees south utilizing the following mitigation measures:
 1. Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines and
 2. Deep setting line shooter.In accordance with paragraph 4 we have 8 vessels that are utilizing the following mitigation measure:
 1. Night setting with minimum deck lighting.

In addition, we wish to inform you that we have not received any reports of seabird or sea turtle interaction from any of our vessels operating in the Convention Area in 2008.

- In compliance with Resolution 07/05 on Limitation of Fishing Capacity of IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties in terms of number of Longline Vessels Targeting Swordfish and Albacore, as you will observe from our List of Vessels which Operated in the IOTC area in 2008 (Attachment 1) we had 8 vessels which targeted swordfish and 8 vessels which targeted albacore. As you will also observe from our Albacore Fleet Development Plan which we submitted on 23rd May 2008 (Attachment 2) we have limited the number of vessels which target albacore to less than 12 vessels. This is still below our 5,368 GT level of 2002 as recommended by the Scientific Committee. On this basis we would estimate that our total catches of albacore will rise to about 1300 mt in 2009 which is well below our 2001 catches. For your guidance, our provisional total albacore catches for 2008 amount to 295.48 m/t.
- 2. Resolution 07/02 Concerning the Establishment of an IOTC Record of Vessels Authorized to Operate in the IOTC Area**
- 2.1 Full details of our fishing vessels authorized to target tuna and tuna like species in the IOTC Area are attached hereto (See Attachment 3) and are currently on the IOTC “Authorized Vessels Record”. Currently we have 11 vessels in the abovementioned record. However, as you will observe from our List of Vessels which Operated in the IOTC Area in 2008 (See Attachment 1), only 9 of these vessels actually carried out fishing operation during 2008. Three other vessels which have been licensed and authorized to operate in the Area did not do so in 2008 because they operated in the IOTC Convention Area.
- 2.2 We have reviewed our internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5(g)(1) of this Resolution and can confirm that our vessels are in compliance with IOTC’s management and conservation measures and are not and have never been involved in any IUU fishing activities. Furthermore, we have had no grounds to take any punitive measures against any of them.
- 3. Recommendation 03/05 Concerning Trade Measures**
We have no data to report in accordance with the requirements of this Recommendation because we have not imported any tuna or tuna like species
- 4. Resolution 01/06 Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme**
We have no data to report in accordance with this Resolution as we have not imported any bigeye tuna.
- 5. Resolution 08/01 on Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non Contracting Parties**
- We are not engaged in any surface fisheries (purse seine, bait boat, troll, driftnets) nor did our vessels operate in coastal zones during 2008. Consequently we have a NIL return.
 - Our Provisional Catch and Effort Data for our long line fleet which operated on the high seas in the Convention Area in 2008 are shown in Attachment 4. The data contained in our Catch and Effort report are derived from the following:
 - The detailed Fishing Log and Fishing Vessel Voyage Reports, Transshipment Declaration Forms for each voyage signed by the Master of each fishing vessel in

accordance with requirements of our Circular for such reporting by Master, Owners, Operators etc.,

VERIFICATION

The data in the Fishing Logs and Fishing Vessel Voyage Reports, Transshipment Declarations are verified by:

- **VMS Reports**- In accordance with our Regulations, all our fishing vessels operating on the High Seas are required to have VMS, irrespective of their length. Our Fishing Administration Department checks the fishing data reported against the VMS reports held in our office, the areas of fishing and, where applicable, transshipment, ports of landing etc.

Mate's Receipts for species and quantities of fish landed or transshipped. In some countries where we have a large number of fishing vessels landing their catch e.g. Costa Rica, we also reconcile our landing data with the relevant Ministry of Fisheries on an annual basis. However, the volume of our fishing activities in the IOTC Convention area does not warrant such treatment.

Invoices reflecting the sale of fish are required by us as additional evidence and by way of cross-check. Also, this is part of our system for establishing the average value of each species which is a requirement of our Financial Regulations.

Vessel Inspections – We carry out random inspections on our fishing vessels in accordance with our Fishing Vessel Observer Program which, inter alia, checks the method of fishing (hooks etc) and preservation onboard, the system of recording and transmission of Catch and Effort Data. We also check the method of landing fish and, in particular, that of sharks.

Investigations – In case of any non-compliance or suspected non-compliances, we perform detailed investigations both onboard and at the Owners'/Operators'/Managers/ offices. Corrective actions/disciplinary measures are taken depending on our findings. There was no necessity to carry out such investigations for fishing vessels operating in the IOTC Area in 2008. All our data, investigations and submissions to all RFMOs are reviewed with the Fisheries Department of our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on a monthly basis. This process acts as an additional check/verification of the activities of our High Seas fishing fleet.

- In Attachment 5, please find our report with respect to size data.

In compliance with Resolution 05/05, we have included in attachment 4 the data relating to our shark catches, which as you will observe is minimal. This is in compliance with IOTC data reporting procedures.

6. Resolution 07/04 Concerning registration and Exchange of Information on Vessels fishing for Tropical Tunas and Swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence

- In Attachment 3 please find data on our list of vessels that are < and/or > 24m LOA operating in the IOTC Area targeting such species.
- We have no foreign flagged vessels which have been issued with licenses by us to fish tuna and tuna like species in the IOTC Area.

7. Resolution 06/03 on Establishing a Vessel Monitoring System Programme

As reported in our submission dated 23rd April 2008, in 2003 we successfully implemented VMS reporting on all our fishing vessels which operate on the high seas, irrespective of their length. It is based on Inmarsat, utilizing Inmarsat C, Inmarsat Mini C and Inmarsat D+ equipment. It is an automatic, real time internet based service. This reporting system complies with the requirements of this Resolution, for example, the margin of error is +/- 20 meters with a confidence level of 99% and it is tamper proof.

8. Resolution 05/03 Relating to the Establishment of an IOTC Programme of Inspection in Port

There are no fishing vessels which have landed in our ports, tuna or tuna like species caught in the Indian Ocean

9. Resolution 08/02 On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels.

As already stated in our email message of 27th June 2008, we wish to confirm that none of our fishing vessels operating in the IOTC Area have engaged in transshipment activities in 2008. Therefore, we do not wish to nominate any carrier vessels that are authorized to receive at-sea transshipment from our LSTLVs at this time in the IOTC Area. However, should the situation change we will notify you accordingly.

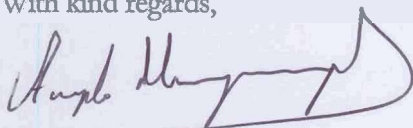
10. Resolution 01/06 Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme

We have/do not import bigeye tuna.

11. Resolution 08/01 Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members

Although the data we are submitting in Attachment 4 and 5 are considered comprehensive, we will submit any final adjustments which may become necessary by 30th December 09, the date specified in this Resolution.

With kind regards,



Angelo Mouzouropoulos
Head Delegate of Belize to IOTC



Valerie Lanza
Fishing Vessels Manager

LIST VESSELS THAT HAVE FISHED FOR TROPICAL TUNAS, ALBACORE AND SWORDFISH IN THE IOTC AREA DURING 2008

No.	Vessel Name	IMO No.	Reg. No.	Call Sign	Previous Flag	Vessel Type	(a) LOA	(b) LBP	GRT	Name and Address of Owners	Name and Address of Operators	Main Target Species
1	Shin Chyun		280510166	V3YG8	Indonesia	Long Line	26.5	23.09	88	Liu, Chiu-Li No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
2	Hsin Chi Tsai		280110074	V3OQ5	New Construction	Long Line	25.2	22	82	Ms. Ko Tu Su-Ching 2 Fl., No.27 Fish Port, North 1st Road, Chien Chen Dist., Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
3	Chen Ming No.1		280110099	V3TK7	New Construction	Long Line	29	25.5	98	Chen Ming Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
4	Ruey I Shyang No.9		280110090	V3MQ9	New Construction	Long Line	27.6	23.9	80	Hung Liang Hui No.24 Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin Yuan Siang Pingtung Hsien, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna,
5	Jin Shyang Yih 666		280110100	V3VD	New Construction	Long Line	29.3	25.52	99	Jin Shyang Yih Fishery Co., Ltd Rm 1B 4F, No.87 Hou-Ping Road, Chien Chen Dist, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
6	Hsin Tsai Fa		280710173	V3GE2	Cambodia	Long Line	24.38	20.38	86	Yang Szu Fishery Co., Ltd No.103 Ho Chang Road. Chien Chen Dist. Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
7	Der Wei No.686	7372359	280010055	V3HJ	China	Long Line	47.66	43.26	472	Der Weil Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 95, Tsuey Her Street, Chien Chen Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
8	Shun Sing No.1	8977558	280410162	V3YO8	Georgia	Long Line	29.77	36.97	276	Macalluns S.A. No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna Swordfish
9	Der Horng 569	7741550	019821281	V3DG	Japan	Long Line	50.75	56.95	895	Der Weil Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 95, Tsuey Her Street, Chien Chen Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish

(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.



**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE
"IMMARBE"**

**FLEET DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BELIZE
ALBACORE**

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 7 of Resolution 07/05, we submit hereunder our Fleet Development Plan for review by the Compliance Committee and Plenary at the 12th Session of IOTC.

As already reported, our catches of albacore in the IOTC Convention area in 2007 amounted to 885 mt caught by 9 vessels (averaging 149 GT per vessel and totalling 1,341 GT) as a part of their total catches in the area. However, the historical data which we submitted to you show that in 2001, our catches of albacore amounted to 1,493 mt. Also, in 2002, we had 11 vessels (averaging 488GT and totalling 5,368 GT) targeting albacore. In this regard, we refer to Page 8 Para 28 of the Report of the 11th Session of IOTC which refers to "the existing advice from the Scientific Committee on albacore that the Commission be very cautious in allowing increases in catch or fishing effort from 2002 levels until there is more certainty about the status of the stock."

Bearing in mind the abovementioned facts and advice from the Scientific Committee, we propose to increase our fishing effort by 3 vessels to 12 vessels during 2008 and 2009 bringing the total to about 3,736 GT. This is still well below our 5,368 GT level of 2002. On this basis, we would estimate that our total catches of albacore will rise to about 1,300 mt in 2009 which is well below our catches in 2001.

CURRENT PRESENCE IN THE IOTC CONVENTION AREA

No.	Vessel Name	IMO No.	Reg. No.	Call Sign	Previous Flag	Vessel Type	(a) LOA	(b) LBP	GRT	Name and Address of Owners	Name and Address of Operators	Main Target Species
1	Shin Chyun		280510166	V3YG8	Indonesia	Long Line	26.5	23.09	88	Liu, Chiu-Li No.103, Ho Chang Rd., Chien Chen Dist Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
2	Hsin Chi Tsai		280110074	V3OQ5	New Construction	Long Line	25.2	22	82	Ms. Ko Tu Su-Ching 2 Fl., No.27 Fish Port, North 1st Road, Chien Chen Dist., Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
3	Chen Ming No.1		280110099	V3TK7	New Construction	Long Line	29	25.5	98	Chen Ming Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 176 Chung Ming St., Hsiao Kang Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
4	Ruey I Shyang No.9		280110090	V3MQ9	New Construction	Long Line	27.6	23.9	80	Hung Liang Hui No.24 Lane 3, Yen Cho Road, Hsin Yuan Siang Pingtung Hsien, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna,
5	Jin Shyang Yih 666		280110100	V3VD	New Construction	Long Line	29.3	25.52	99	Jin Shyang Yih Fishery Co., Ltd Rm 1B 4F, No.87 Hou-Ping Road, Chien Chen Dist, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
6	Hsin Tsai Fa		280710173	V3GE2	Cambodia	Long Line	24.38	20.38	86	Yang Szu Fishery Co., Ltd No.103 Ho Chang Road. Chien Chen Dist. Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
7	Der Wei No.686	7372359	280010055	V3HJ	China	Long Line	47.66	43.26	472	Der Weil Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 95, Tsuey Her Street, Chien Chen Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
8	Der Horng 569	7741550	019821281	V3DG	Japan	Long Line	50.75	56.95	895	Der Weil Fishery Co., Ltd. No. 95, Tsuey Her Street, Chien Chen Dist., Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.	SAME AS OWNERS	Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish
9	Wan Jia Men 99	280110087	V3LV	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	28.2	32.12	140	Captura Todo de Belize Co., Ltd Av. 3, 13 Street, Puntarenas, Costa Rica	SAME AS OWNERS	
10	Wang Jia Men No.88	280010052	V3GI3	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	25.52	29.3	99	Captura Todo de Belize Co., Ltd Av. 3, 13 Street, Puntarenas, Costa Rica	SAME AS OWNERS	
11	Hsin Chi Tsai No.2	280210103	V3VQ	Belize	New Construction	Long Line	25.52	29.3	99	Ko-Tu, Su-Ching 2 Fl., No.27, Fish Port, North 1st Road Chien Chen Dist., Kaohsiung Taiwan ROC	SAME AS OWNERS	

(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.

REPORT BY BELIZE ON COMPLIANCE WITH IOTC CIRCULAR 2009-01 AND ARTICLE X OF THE IOTC AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Article X of the IOTC Agreement to promote compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, apart from the ratification of the IOTC Agreement, Belize has taken action under its national legislation to enforce the provisions of the Agreement and to implement binding conservation and management measures in order to ensure compliance with paragraph 1 of the abovementioned Article.

These measures are contained in our High Seas Fishing Act of 2003, which, inter alia: 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 UN “Fish Stocks” Agreement insofar as these relate to the Flag State in relation to its High Seas Fleet and Cooperation with other States in this regard. **Part III Section 7(5)(c) thereof specifically requires compliance with international conservation and management measures for the species of living marine resources on the high seas.** In order to ensure compliance with the Article X, 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, Section 28-32 of the IPOA as well as Articles 20 and 21 of the U.N Fish Stocks Agreement.
- Part IV – International Cooperation – Section 10: IMMARBE shall provide to any relevant international organization, any information contained in the record provided for under section 3(1) of this Act
- Section 11(1): IMMARBE shall make such arrangements as may be appropriate to enable them to exchange information, including evidentiary material with other States that are parties to the Agreement so as to better implement the object of the Agreement.
- Section 11(2)(a)(b): Pursuant to subsection (1), IMMARBE shall in particular, where it has reason to believe that a foreign fishing vessel engaged in activities which undermine international conservation and management measures –
 - (a) provide to the appropriate authorities of the flag state of the foreign fishing vessel concerned such information, including evidentiary material relating to those activities as may be necessary to assist the Flag State in identifying the vessel; and
 - (b) when such foreign vessel is voluntarily in a port of Belize promptly notify the appropriate authorities of the Flag State of the vessel accordingly.
- Part VI – **Prohibitions and Offences – Section 16(1) – No Belize fishing vessel shall engage in any activity on the high seas which undermines the effectiveness of conservation and management measures.**

- Section 16(3) Where a fishing vessel of Belize contravenes subsection (1) the master, owner or charterer each commits an offence and shall be liable to the penalties referred to in regulation 7 and 8 of the Registration of Merchant Ships (Disciplinary) Regulations, 1999.
- Section 18(5) Any Master or other person who transships, receives on board a fishing vessel, transports, sells, offers for sale, processes or in any manner deals with any fish caught in contravention of this Act commits an offence

Additional measures contained in the Registration of Merchant Ships (Disciplinary) Regulations, 1999: Section 5 states that IMMARBE may, under the hand of the Senior Deputy Registrar, by way of detailed document of notification, impose the following penalties:

- (a) written warning
 - (b) fine
 - (c) cancellation of status/or document
 - (d) suspension or revocation of authority
- Section 6 – Written warning is applicable in cases of violation or non-compliance of any provisions of the Act or any regulations made there under, or circular notes, or a violation of any of the requirements established by Conventions and/or Resolutions on Maritime Affairs, committed for the first time, provided the respective non-compliance or violation is not of a serious nature.
 - Section 7(1) – A fine shall be applicable in all cases where the violation or non-compliance is of a serious nature or, in the cases referred to in regulation 6 above, the non-compliance or violation has occurred repeatedly even though not of a serious nature.
 - (2) A fine shall also be applicable in the cases of vessels engaged in illicit traffic or drugs or other illegal activities without prejudice to any criminal proceeding which may be pending in any other jurisdiction.
 - (3) Vessels lacking navigation documents or holding expired navigation papers without a timely application for renewal, or employing officers and seamen lacking valid qualification certificates, may be fined. IMMARBE, for the purpose of applying such sanctions, may take into consideration the seriousness of the offence, as well as the existence of any extenuating circumstances.
 - Section 8 – The registration of a vessel in IMMARBE or the registration or recording of any document relating thereto, may be cancelled in any of the following cases:
 - (a) **If the vessel is registered in the Merchant Marine of another country without the consent of IMMARBE**

- (b) If the vessel is engaged in smuggling, piracy or any other **illegal trade or activity;**
- (c) **In the event of a violation of International Convention ratified by Belize, or Resolutions issued by competent bodies of the United Nations, if cancellation of registration is therein contemplated.**
- (d) **In the event of repeated serious violations of any provisions of the Act or any regulations made there under or circular notes regarding seaworthiness, safety, sanitation, crew accommodation requirements, labor requirements, or prevention of marine pollution;**
- (e) **In the event of serious violations of bilateral or multi lateral agreements to which Belize is a signatory or cooperating party, or**
- (f) **In any other case established by law.**

Belize has also taken additional measures in order to ensure enforcement of, inter alia, conservation and management measures:

- Section 17(1) of the Registration of Merchant Ships Act 1989 (as amended by Act No.5 of 1996) requires that every registered vessel shall have at all times a representative in Belize appointed by the shipowner. This is in conformity with Article 10(2) of the U.N. Convention on the Conditions of Registration. Such representative acts as an assured communication link with the Owners and, inter alia, for the service of writs and other legal documents, notifications etc.
- Quite apart from Belize's consular offices, IMMARBEL has 32 Designated offices worldwide which are in constant contact with Owners, Operators and licensees. They are fluent in the languages of their clients including Chinese (Mandarin) and Russian and visit their offices and take such other actions locally as deemed necessary by Head Office in Belize.

IMMARBEL also exercises effective monitoring, control and enforcement of management and conservation 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 operation, species targeted, method of processing etc. Vessels which wish to fish in breach of conservation and management 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 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 Polestar Space Application Limited who utilize an automatic real time internet based service called Purplefinder Vessel Management Solutions. This reporting system complies with IOTC's Resolution 06/03 on the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the IOTC Convention Area. For example the margin of error is +/- 20 meters with a confidence level of 99% and it is tamper proof.

The monitoring is carried out by the Fishing Administration Department at IMMARBE Head Office in Belize. It enable 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.

Catch and Effort Reporting

Fishing vessel Owners/operators are required to submit data on their fishing operations based on our format for such reporting which complies with IOTC Resolution 08/01 which includes a detailed Fishing Log and Fishing Vessel Voyage Report showing information regarding positions, time/dates, set, catches by species including weights, start times, number of hooks etc, details of discards etc., species unloaded, names of ports or details of transshipment in compliance with the requirements of RFMOs concerning the standards for the provision of operational catch and effort data.

- **Inspection Schemes and Compliance**

IMMARBE has 182 inspectors stationed worldwide who inspect vessels in their respective areas, inter alia, to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures as well as safety and manning regulations as part of a fleet wide Inspection Scheme/system of surveillance. This may be 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.

Since 2006, IMMARBE's Quality Management System which has attained accreditation to the new ISO 9001:2000 incorporates Fishing Vessel Administration and is audited annually by external auditors. Evidence of compliance with conservation and management measures is an essential element of such audits