

Fishing Vessel Circular Letter No. 034

27 April 2020

Series: RFMO-2020

To: All Ship Owners, Operators, Deputy Registrars, Resident Agents, Representatives and other Stakeholders

Subject: **MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC SAILFISH**

Reference: Issued in accordance with Part VIII, Section 50(1)(c) of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013

Recommendation 16-11 by ICCAT on the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

Circular Superseded:

BACKGROUND:

Based on reports of ICCAT's Scientific Commission for Research and Statistics, it is likely that the catches of Atlantic Sailfish are under-reported which has made it difficult to carry out a comprehensive assessment on this specie. Nonetheless in order to manage Atlantic Sailfish in a precautionary approach an annual catch limit has been established for this specie in the ICCAT Convention Area consistent with scientific advice.

MANAGEMENT MEASURE ADOPTED BY ICCAT

In accordance with the recommendation adopted by ICCAT an overall aggregate catch limit has been established for the eastern and western stock, that is 1271 t and 1030 tons respectively. In order for the Commission to ensure that catches do not exceed these levels, members are required to take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels release live sailfish caught as target or incidental catches, encourage the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implement a minimum size to be caught or limiting the days at sea catch this species

MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY BELIZE

Notwithstanding the above and after considering the ICCAT recommended measures and this Administration's capacity to ensure compliance with this Recommendation it our decision that the **harvesting of Atlantic Sailfish shall be prohibited.**

APPLICABILITY

This circular applies to all Belize flagged fishing vessels fishing for or intending to fish Atlantic Sailfish in the ICCAT Convention Area.

MAINTENANCE

Stakeholders shall ensure that this Circular is acknowledged and observed.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with any Circular shall result in disciplinary actions taken in accordance with Belize's Sanction Regulations S.I. 32 of 2014

IMPLEMENTATION

This Circular shall be implemented with immediate effect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information direct all inquiries about this Circular to the Director of High Seas Fisheries of the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize.

Issued by



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