



## NOTICE OF BELIZE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE IOTC AREA

<b>This Notice is about</b>	<b>Belize's decision to withdraw its presence and participation from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area.</b>
<b>This Notice replaces</b>	n/a
<b>It is intended for</b>	All Ship Owners, Operators, Charterers, Master and Crew, Deputy Registrars and Resident Agents
<b>For more information</b>	Direct any inquiries about this circular to the Director of the High Seas Fisheries of the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance

### BACKGROUND:

In an effort to align the size of our fleet which operates on the high seas consistent with our capacity to monitor and control these vessels, Belize has taken a policy decision to withdraw its presence and participation within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area. Belize will shortly be submitting its withdrawal notice to the Commission which, in accordance with the IOTC Convention "*withdrawal shall become effective at the end of the calendar year following that in which the notice of withdrawal has been received by the Director General*". Accordingly, Belize's withdrawal becomes effective on 31 December 2015.

Resultantly, with immediate effect we will no longer be authorizing vessels to operate within the IOTC area. All vessels that currently hold a license to operate in this area will be allowed to continue operate up to the expiration of their license but not beyond December 2015.

### APPLICABILITY

This Notice applies to all vessels currently operating in the IOTC area and which is contained on the IOTC list of authorized vessels.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Ship owners, operators and masters must ensure that this Fishing Vessel Circular is maintained on board their vessel and that the content is properly disseminated to all crew member including persons affected by or having an interest in the subject matter, in a language understood by all.

## **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 forthwith and shall remain in effect until further notification from this Administration.

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### **Issued by**

**Valarie Lanza,  
Director of High Seas Fisheries**