

Date 10-February-2015

Notice # N004

Series: 2015

Category GEN

NOTICE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BELIZE'S NATIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

This Notice is about	Establishing measures in respect to the implementation of a National Inspection Program
This Notice replaces	n/a
It is intended for	All Ship Owners, Operators, Charterers, Master and Crew, Deputy Registrars and Resident Agents
For more information	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 enhance National efforts for monitoring, control and surveillance, of its high seas fishing fleet, the Government of Belize has decided to implement a scheme for inspection which will ensure compliance with domestic laws, international rules and regulations and all applicable conservation and management measures for the protection of vulnerable species. This program is designed to collect data from Belize Flagged vessels pertaining to the discharge of its catches as well as other relevant data from the vessels. This is being done in an effort to provide the necessary checks and balances to effectively manage the activities of the high seas fishing fleet.

This inspection program will serve to ensure that the data collected from vessel operators and subsequently reported to the regional fisheries management organizations is accurate and true so as to avoid misreporting of fisheries data that may lead to anomalies that might cause errors during stock assessment for the various species whose fish stocks are managed.

The inspection program is necessary to enforce the provisions of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013 and the subsidiary Monitoring Control and Surveillance Regulation. The program is also necessary and mandatory for those vessels which will export to the European Union or

directly land their product at an EU port as it will allow for the validation of the catch certificate necessary under the EU Catch Certification Scheme.

APPLICABILITY

Belize's inspection program will come into force on 1st March 2015 and in accordance with our High Seas Fishing Act, 2013, all vessels shall be subject to inspection coverage in accordance with the percentage coverage set forth by this Administration. Belize's regulation for monitoring, control and surveillance, and the National Inspection Plan and Manual further outlines the details of the program and the obligation of the owners, operators and crew to comply with this measure.

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.

Issued by

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