

THE QUARTERLY CATCH

E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 14

DATE: July 2022

BELIZE RETURNS TO POSIDONIA 2022

By: IMMARBE



The Posidonia international shipping exhibition takes place in Athens Greece every two years and is the largest gathering for ship owners and transportation experts to learn about the most recent developments in the

shipping industry. This exhibition showcases a wide array of shipping and shipping related products and services which are available globally.

There was general excitement and enthusiasm amongst organizers and exhibitors alike for the return of the exhibition after four years, which was suspended primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial forecast from the organizers reported some 1,964 organizing companies, from 88

different countries, and 29,000 visitors from more than 103 nations. Actual participation however, significantly exceeded these projections and set a record high of visitors to the exhibition above 40,000 visitors; including exhibitors and press. These record high numbers re-affirms Posidonia as the largest international maritime event, whose growing attendance only serves to further this designation



Ms. Felicia Vargas, Administrator & Mrs. Annette Garel, Senior Deputy Registrar



(Left to right) Mr. Javier Bru, Ms. Felicia Vargas, Mr. Wouter Sluis, Eng. Eduardo Simon, Mrs. Annette Garel, Mr. Erik De Koning, Mr. Vasilis Dimpoulous, Mr. Joel Da Costa

Belize was proudly represented at "Posidonia 2022" by senior members of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) including the Senior Deputy Registrar, Mrs. Annette Garel, Technical Manager, Eng. Eduardo Simon and Administrator, Ms. Felicia Vargas.



(Left to Right) Mrs. Annette Garel, Capt. Sergey Gudko, Eng. Eduardo Simon, Ms. Felicia Vargas

Belize's exhibit was located in Hall 1 at Stand No.1,520 where IMMARBE had its team ready to assist and update visitors about Belize's latest accomplishments; achieving "Grey List" status in the Paris MOU being at the forefront. IMMARBE welcomed more than 90 companies to its booth and more than 200 individual visitors. Belize's Deputy Registrars from various offices including Greece, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, Cyprus, USA, Panama, Latvia, and Malta were also in attendance. There were also representatives from several



(Left to Right) International Naval Surveys Bureau- INSB, Eng. Eduardo Simon, Mr. Nicholas Papadopolous, Mrs. Annette Garel, and Mr. Pantelis Chinakis Glaras.

recognized organizations present. The high level of attendance provided the opportunity for Deputy Registrars to introduce Belize's delegation to shipowners utilizing the Belize Flag. This exchange allowed several of them to express their satisfaction with the excellent services of the Belize register especially during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and their plan to continue using its services.



(Left to Right) Mr. Chris Socratous, Mr. Bijimon Punnoose, Eng. Radwan Yahya, Eng. Eduardo Simon

The booth was colorfully decorated and attracted several people who were intrigued by Belize and its ships registry; and welcomed by the Belize delegation. The exhibition lasted five days and involved intense networking, marketing and exposure for the Belize Register. Participation in the exhibition exceeded expectations with several parties wishing to conduct business with the Register. It was a successful event by all measures as IMMARBE received expressions of interest for new representations for deputy registrars, recognized organizations, flag state surveyors and shipowners.

The Posidonia Maritime Exhibition was an excellent platform to market the Belize Register where a small group was able to collectively work to promote, support and celebrate IMMARBE, the Friendly Flag of Quality.



Mrs. Annette Garel and Mrs. Suzanne Shaw



(Left to Right) Bulgarian Register of Shipping-BRS, Mr. Dimitar Novak, Mrs. Annette Garel, Eng. Eduardo Simon and Mr. Nelko Nachev



Mrs. Annette Garel and Eng. Eduardo Simon

Belize Elevated to Paris MOU Grey List

By: IMMARBE



We are excited to announce that the Belize Flag Registry have been removed from the blacklist of the Paris MOU Performance List 2021. This achievement demonstrates

IMMARBE's strong commitment and emphasis on its fiduciary responsibility of protecting human life at sea and the environment. Belize ensures this commitment by carrying out due diligence to guarantee that no sub-standard vessels are registered with Belize.

As a flag State, we are now classified as a "Grey Listed" flag. This is deserving of felicitations to all the staff and stakeholders of IMMARBE who contributed to this outcome, inclusive of our network of Deputy Registrars worldwide.

This new status is an illustration of Belize's diligence, dedication and synergy among our staff and stakeholders, and cements Belize's commitment to enhancing the standards of the International Ship's Registry.

Under this new status we are prepared to overcome all new challenges while aspiring to obtain White List status in the future.



The Belize Blue Bond Project: where are we in meeting our conservation milestones

By: Delice Pinkard- Senior Fisheries Officer

In accordance with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Marine Protected Areas; MPAs are areas of inter tidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which have been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all the enclosed environments.

In Belize, facilitated through The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a Blue Bond debt relief agreement was adopted in 2021. The main objectives of the Agreement and its supporting Conservation Fund Agreement is to properly develop and implement a marine protection and spatial plan and the partial relief of Belize's international debt burden. One important conservation goal within the Blue Bond Project, includes the expansion of marine protected areas of up to 30%, consisting of spawning hot spots, coral reefs, and mangroves. Also in creating a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP), consideration to include recommendations from the community and stakeholders is vital in ensuring that the plan supports the socio-economic needs of the communities while protecting habitats.

As part of Belize's commitment to the Bond, and under the MSP process, several milestones were established, spanning an 8-year period. These milestones includes the expansion of biodiversity protection zones, implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) to the approval of Management Plans for Biodiversity Protection Zones, inter alia. In June 2022, the Government of Belize delivered on its first two sets of milestones by expanding its biodiversity no-take zones to 11.83% and designated public lands within the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (BBRS) as Mangrove Reserves.

Like Seychelles' ability to accomplish their milestone target goal of 30% expansion of biodiversity protection zones in March 2020, Belize is extremely confident that all target goals will be achieved within the agreed time period.

The BHSFU, whom at the time of curating this article, was able to participate in a meeting with the Blue Bond Finance Permanence Unit where we were given an orientation of Belize's commitments and funding structure associated with the Blue Loan Agreement and the Conservation Fund Agreement and how key stakeholders can benefit from the use of the Government Strategic Allowance under the Belize Fund for Sustainable Future.

GREY LIST



RANK	FLAG	INSPECTIONS 2019-2021	DETENTIONS 2019-2021	BLACK TO GREY LIMIT	GREY TO WHITE LIMIT	EXCESS FACTOR
GREY LIST						
41	Morocco	48	0	7	0	0.01
42	Thailand	33	0	5	0	0.10
43	Curacao	40	1	6	0	0.21
44	Korea, Republic of	75	3	9	1	0.23
45	Azerbaijan	56	2	8	0	0.24
46	India	36	1	6	0	0.25
47	Iran, Islamic Republic of	68	3	9	1	0.28
48	Palau	162	9	17	5	0.30
49	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	331	20	31	15	0.31
50	Philippines	131	8	14	4	0.39
51	Lebanon	53	3	7	0	0.40
52	Saint Kitts and Nevis	112	7	13	3	0.42
53	Poland	50	3	7	0	0.43
54	Mongolia	33	3	5	0	0.62
55	Cook Islands	201	17	21	8	0.73
56	Vanuatu	253	22	25	11	0.80
57	Sierra Leone	250	22	25	10	0.82
58	Ukraine	74	8	9	1	0.84
59	Belize	241	22	24	10	0.87
60	Switzerland	44	6	6	0	0.94
61	Tanzania, United Republic of	189	19	20	7	0.96

Fish Right Eat Right Forum: Closing Data Gaps with Technology

On 27th June 2022, the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit had the pleasure of attending the Fish Right Eat Right Forum hosted by OCEANA Belize and its partners. The objective of the forum was to highlight the ways technology is currently being used in fisheries management by various partners of the Fish Right Eat Right initiative, as well as highlight the outcomes of the project, Market Based Incentives for Responsible Fishing.



Photo Courtesy: OCEANA

Fish Right, Eat Right establishes a local brand that highlights establishments sourcing seafood responsibly; enabling consumers to make correct choices that ensure the health of the oceans. The brand is being developed via a collaborative process involving all partners including the private sector.

The goal of this certification program is to curb illegal fishing and promote best practices in fisheries by providing marketing incentives throughout the supply chain via the promotion of responsible seafood consumption. Those establishments that demonstrate knowledge of and compliance with the Fisheries Regulations will receive special recognition, and responsible fishers who comply with the Regulations will have preferential access to these reliable markets.

Fish Right, Eat Right is initially targeting restaurants and hotels, and possibly expanding to include cooperatives, fish markets, supermarkets and other seafood purveyors in the future. An advertising campaign for tourists and the public to support these compliant, recognized establishments is planned. For restaurants, this program will help match consumer demand for legal, healthy products with a supply chain that will deliver. The program will also help restaurants identify alternative seafood options for consumption that can help reduce fishing pressure on species that are over-exploited, threatened, or endangered.

<https://www.fishrighteatright.com>



So remember, wherever you see the Fish Right Eat Right logo, it is guaranteed that you are consuming sustainably and legally-caught seafood.

IN OTHER NEWS

ICCAT Panel 1 Intersessional Meeting on Tropical Tunas

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas held hybrid intersessional meeting of Panel 1 from 28-30 June in Ponta Delgada Azores, Portugal. The Primary focus of this meeting was to discuss and develop conservation and management measures for tropical tuna species for adoption at the upcoming 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission in November. The Panel had an ambitious agenda and went into the meeting with three proposals to consider: one from the Central American Members and Curacao, one from the European Union, and one from the West African Members. A concept paper was also submitted by Japan for the consideration of the panel.



Under the leadership of the new chair Dr. Paul Bannerman of Ghana, the meeting got off to a slow start but quickly gained momentum once the agenda was settled and discussion started on the issues for consideration. Although the positions expressed in the three proposals were varied and divergent, there was clear indication that all CPCs agreed to an

increase in total allowable catch (TAC) for Bigeye Tuna (BET) as per the advise of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). Notwithstanding, the level of increase ranged from 70,000 to 77,500 tons and there were a few Members that expressed strong preference for a conservative increase in the TAC due to caution from the SCRS when interpreting the projection probabilities summary table. As a result of this advice from the SCRS, the more conservative Members were only willing to agree to increase in the TAC if an accompanying suite of control and management measures could be adopted which would guarantee strict adherence to the agreed TAC.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the chair would combine the proposal that were presented at this meeting for consideration and incorporate the positions of the CPCs expressed during the meeting.

The work started at this meeting will continue by correspondence to advance the work of the Panel during the interim period leading up to the annual meeting.

