## Belize Fisheries Department Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

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## **NOTICE**

TO: ALL VESSEL OWNERS, OPERATORS, DESIGNATED OFFICES, AGENTS

DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013 NOTICE NUMBER: 003

RE: NEW BILLING METHOD FOR INTERNAL CATCH CONTRIBUTION

- 1. Vessels which are subject to Internal Catch Contribution are all those vessels which operate in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission areas.
- 2. Initial billing of this fee was based on the catches of the vessel over a semi-annual period.
- 3. Fees are based on the market value of the species in US\$ per metric ton of each species harvested of which a fee of 10% of that value is charged to the owners.
- 4. In an effort to harmonize our billing system together with vessels in other areas, this Administration has decided to implement a similar billing system as being utilized on our vessels in the ICCAT area, which is based on allocation as opposed to actual catches.
- 5. Vessel owners will now be required to provide to us at the beginning of each year an estimate of their <u>intended target species</u> and <u>quantities of each species</u> in metric tons to be harvested during that particular year based on its previous historical catches.
- 6. This information will be used to invoice the owners in accordance with our system as detailed in point 3 above and to officially allocate particular quantities of species that the vessel will be allowed to target over an annual period.
- 7. Overharvest of the allocation will result in either a reduction in the following years' allocation or a payback of the overharvested quantities. This will be at the discretion of the Administration.

- 8. Any vessel that has not received official notification of allocation of species to be harvested during the year will be deemed to be operating illegally, violating our regulations, and will be subject to disciplinary actions
- 9. Owners/operators are granted up to the end of January of each year to officially submit this information to us.