

Belize Fisheries Department
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development
Princess Margaret Drive, P.O. Box 148
Belize, Belize
Tel: 501-22-32187
Email: fisheris_department@fisheries.gov.bz



International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE)
Suite 204, Marina Towers, Newtown Barracks,
Belize City, Belize
Tel: 501-22-35026/35045/35070
Email: immarbe@btl.net

NOTICE

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

DATE: 14TH JANUARY 2013

RE: CLOSURE PERIOD IN THE IOTC AREA

1. With the view of decreasing the pressure on the mean targeted stocks and in particular on the yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence for the years 2013 and 2014, the area defined by the following coordinates and indicated in the map below will be closed for longline vessels in each year from 0000 hours on 1st February to 2400 hours on 1st March and for the purpose of purse seiners in each year from 0000 hours on 1st November to 2400 hours on 1st December

0° - 10° North

40° - 60° East

2. All vessels fishing within the IOTC area of competence in 2013 and 2014 regardless of the flag under which they operate or whether they change flag during the year, shall observe the area and period closure.
3. The notice is applicable to all vessels of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, fishing within the IOTC area of competence.
4. Owners and operators should ensure that their VMS are activated and functional during these periods so that proper monitoring can be conducted. VMS reports for this period will be sent to the IOTC Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 12/13.
5. Landings, transshipments and commercial transactions of all species and their products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravenes this notice are prohibited.

6. Failure to comply with the conditions of this notice will result in punitive actions taken against the vessel owners/operators.

