



BELIZE

**Progress Report on VMS in accordance with
Resolution C-14-02**

12 June 2017 (amended)

Belize implemented its Vessel Monitoring System since 2003 through a service provider, Polestar Space Applications Ltd. Since then, Polestar has continuously strived to improve our system by meeting our specific monitoring needs. Currently, Polestar through its successful merger with Absolute systems, has created a unique platform which allows our system to capture information such as the vessel identification information, the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) with errors of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 99%, the date and time (UTC) of the vessel's position, the vessel's speed and course, photograph of the vessel and many other noteworthy features. Our system is now able to define specific geographical zones where vessels can be grouped to certain zones etc., points of interest, bathymetry, and weather mapping overlays, accumulative distance measurer and hourly vessel position reporting, inter alia.

Our vessel monitoring system is also equipped with an e-log feature that will enable all vessel operators to provide daily real time catch data via their IDP 690 Transceiver Unit, Treq VM Data Terminal and Beijer X T7AM Marine Terminal to the system. This data will be stored within the system's database which will be closely monitored and analysed. As an update, we are still conducting tests on the E-log feature to ensure that correct data is being entered and transmitted by the operators; and that the system may be able to retrieve and provide the data in specific reporting formats. We are also working with Polestar's support team in assisting the operators on the usage of the program since it is relatively new to them. We have encountered some issues along the way with regard to the data entered by the operators and their comprehension on how to properly use the system. However, Polestar's support team is working diligently in rectifying whatever glitches the system may have and to also provide guidance/training to the operators on how to properly use the system. Once the e-log system is functioning 100%, we will fully transition to the sole reliability of the system.

Our Fisheries Monitoring Centre which was created in January 2014, is still functioning as per normal. We have fisheries officers who are dedicated in conducting 24 hours monitoring via our VMS within this centre. Currently, it is a general requirement that all fishing vessels or fishing related vessels must obtain and install the unit provided by Polestar Global. Therefore, all vessels 24 meters and more in length must meet this requirement. When a unit is purchased

from our service provider, it is then shipped directly to the vessel and is installed. After testing is conducted to ensure that the unit is successfully reporting on our system, the administration will authorize the vessel to proceed with its fishing expedition under Belize. Currently, all data that is retrieved from the unit meets the standards and requirement set forth by IATTC. With regard to Resolution C-03-04, all Belize fishing vessels under IATTC are long liners and as such does not need to meet the requirements stipulated within this resolution. With regard to Resolution C-03-05, relevant data have been retrieve from the fishing log book which the master utilizes on a daily basis. While we are finalizing the testing phase of our E-log program feature on our VMS to retrieve real time catch data, we rely heavily on the documented fishing logbooks and unloading reports to provide catch data to IATTC.