

FLEET DEVELOPMENT PLANS

BELIZE



**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE
"IMMARBE"**

**FLEET DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BELIZE
ALBACORE**

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 7 of Resolution 07/05, we submit hereunder our Fleet Development Plan for review by the Compliance Committee and Plenary at the 12th Session of IOTC.

As already reported, our catches of albacore in the IOTC Convention area in 2007 amounted to 885 mt caught by 9 vessels (averaging 149 GT per vessel and totalling 1,341 GT) as a part of their total catches in the area. However, the historical data which we submitted to you show that in 2001, our catches of albacore amounted to 1,493 mt. Also, in 2002, we had 11 vessels (averaging 488GT and totalling 5,368 GT) targeting albacore. In this regard, we refer to Page 8 Para 28 of the Report of the 11th Session of IOTC which refers to "the existing advice from the Scientific Committee on albacore that the Commission be very cautious in allowing increases in catch or fishing effort from 2002 levels until there is more certainty about the status of the stock."

Bearing in mind the abovementioned facts and advice from the Scientific Committee, we propose to increase our fishing effort by 3 vessels to 12 vessels during 2008 and 2009 bringing the total to about 3,736 GT. This is still well below our 5,368 GT level of 2002. On this basis, we would estimate that our total catches of albacore will rise to about 1,300 mt in 2009 which is well below our catches in 2001.

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