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Annual Report of Belize to the Scientific Committee

Belize

Belize's 2025 Annual Scientific Report

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

Date: June 30, 2026

Belize submits the Scientific Annual Report in accordance with the Conservation and Management Measures of the Commission. The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

During the reporting period, Belize had no fishing-support vessels authorized to operate within the SPRFMO Convention Area and no vessels authorized to conduct direct fishing operations in the Convention Area. Consequently, no Belizean vessels operated within the SPRFMO Convention Area during 2025, and there were no fishing activities to report for the reporting period.

Description of Fisheries

Belize's participation in SPRFMO resumed in January 2022 as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party after its Contracting Part status ended in 2016. Belize has since regained Contracting Party status since February 2023; but has nothing to report for fleet composition and summary tables since it has zero (0) authorized vessels.

Catch, Effort and CPUE Summaries

In 2025, there were no fishing vessels operating within the SPRFMO Convention area.

Fisheries Data Collection and Research Activities

No Belizean fishing vessels operated in the SPRFMO Convention Area in 2025; therefore, no fisheries data collection system was implemented for this area. Notwithstanding, Belize collects fisheries data via logbooks, catch and effort data reporting sheets, discharge/landing reports, and partially from its e-log system which is a part of its Fleet Information System (FIS) for vessel monitoring and catch reporting.

Furthermore, Belize did not conduct any research activities or participated in any scientific programs within the Convention Area in 2025.

Biological Sampling and Length/Age Composition of Catches

No Belizean fishing vessels were engaged in operations within the SPRFMO Convention Area in 2025, consequently leading to the absence of any biological and size-frequency data.

Ecosystem Approach considerations

There were no fishing vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area in 2025, thus there are no seabird mitigation measures or those used for other taxa to report. Additionally, there are no data reporting of observed bycatch by species, fishery and location for all seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles, or any other species.

Observer Implementation Reports

In 2025, there were no fishing vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area. Consequently, Belize did not participate in the SPRFMO Observer program. However, it should be noted that Belize does operate its own observer program in accordance with Section III of its High Seas Fishing (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance-MCS) Regulations as outlined below:

“The [Belize High Seas Fisheries Observer Program] BHSFOP shall cover all vessels including transshipment vessels and shall be carried out in conjunction with any RFMO ROP. The level of coverage shall be adequate to facilitate robust assessment and evaluation of the effects of fishing. Ideal observer coverage levels shall be analytically established against clear objectives to ensure representative and systematic reliable collection of observer data across the fleet, fisheries, species, areas and seasons.

The aim of the program is to achieve 100% coverage with coverage consistent with the recommendations of the relevant RFMOs. The coverage will also be representative of the different vessel type, fisheries and areas of operation.”