



**National report for Belize C.A to the Meso American and Caribbean  
Hydrographic Commission**

**December 2015**

**BPA**  
**BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY**

Compiled and prepared by the Hydrographic office  
at the Belize Port Authority  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## National Reports to the MACHC

1. **Hydrographic office/ Services:**

See IHO Yearbook annex 1

2. **Surveys:**

No new surveys for 2015

Purchase a new Panasonic CF 53 laptop for data processing

In the process of acquiring a new survey vessel

Slight connectivity issues and the urgent need for recalibration of equipment

3. **New charts & updates:**

No new ENC's

ENC are distributed through the UKHO

No new RNC's

Do not produce INT charts as yet

No updated Paper charts

4. **New Publications & updates:**

We consistently publish notice to mariners, which include but are not limited to: weather warnings, ongoing works (i.e dredging & construction)

Publications are delivered through the local media and newsletters

5. **MSI :**

See MSI report annex 2

6. **C-55**

7. **Capacity Building**

Belize, the staff of the BPA's hydrographic unit in particular needs extensive training. Both theory and practical seminars and mach surveys. Courses in cartography as well. For the Belize Port Authority, this would be least difficult if these trainings could be done in house within the country and courses abroad would require selecting appropriate candidates.

The status of the multilateral project, which was the Gulf of Honduras project, is no longer in motion and a new project, to take its place, was never initiated.

Definition of bids: during the year 2015 the Belize Port Authority has contributed to the

development of the Hydrographic unit by providing training to officers, purchase of new computer and the refurbishment of the survey platform. To fulfil the obligations of the Authority in the year 2015 a total of \$32,000 had been allocated for Hydrographic development.

**8. Oceanographic activities:**

<b>Station Code</b>	<b>Station Name (Location)</b>	<b>River</b>
8963	Burrell Boom Bridge	Belize River
8993	Haulover Bridge	Belize River
8994	Chetumal Street Bridge	Haulover Creek
8995	Bottom Dalla	Haulover Creek
8996	Burdon Canal	Fabers Lagoon

Five new automatic water level stations was installed as a flood warning system to reduce Belize City vulnerability to flood events especially since the City is below sea level.

**9. Other activities:**

\*Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundaries, Baselines and the Outer Continental Shelf Workshop August 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

\* Single Beam editor course held in Houston TX, in August as well

**10. Conclusion**

From the Port Authority's stand point we need support more than ever, not in the monetary but to have a follow up project in place that would be the successor of the Gulf of Honduras project. A multilateral agreement is ideal so that when the need arises for extra funds or support it will be accessible. There are several areas in our territorial waters that has been minimally surveyed or not surveyed at all. We have not submitted new data to the UKHO for this year and thus no new publications could have been produced. We also seek additional training in several areas of hydrography such as data collection and processing, tide gauge installation so as to have our team up to an acceptable standard of competence.

## Annex 2

Belize National Report to the MACHC

Country: **Belize**

Agency: **Belize Port Authority**

1. Maritime Area: The Maritime area of Belize includes its internal waters the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone as described in Belize's Maritime Areas Act 1992
2. Operational points of contact for the National Coordinator

Institution	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Belize Port Authority	223-0714/16	223-0433	<a href="mailto:bzportauth@btl.net">bzportauth@btl.net</a>

### 3. GMDSS Master Plan

Operation is done through the COSPAS SARSAT system

Last updated in 2013 whereby frequencies were switched from 121 MHz to 406 MHz

Equipment Type for ports and Local areas	Software Version	Date of Up-date
Vertex VXR – 9000VC repeater	---	February 2015
174MHz Duplexer	---	February 2015
Cospas SARSAT ELT	---	2013
NAVTEX	---	---

- No warnings have been issued, ***which were considered*** to be of immediate priority

### 4. NAVTEX Coverage

National Coast Guard located at mile 4, Belize City, Belize District is responsible for this means of communication.

Contact number: +5012225260

5. The NAVTEX system is currently down and they resort to VHF transmission which extends to the most southern regions of our territorial waters.

### 6. Contingency Planning

Local Authorities in Belize Operate based on the Hurricane/ National Preparedness Plan

These are Master Plans under CEMO (Coastal Emergency Management Organization).

7. **Capacity Building**

- HYPACK single Beam Editor Course was attended by two of our employees in August 2015  
- Technical Aspects of Boundaries, Baselines and the outer continental Shelf workshop was also attended by the Belize Port Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2015.

**Demands**

In-house hydrographic trainings would be extremely beneficial to our staff members within the hydrographic unit. The immediate need for the Belize Port Authority and the progress of the Hydrographic unit remain the proper upkeep and maintenance of the hydrographic equipment. It is of great importance that assistance and some experience guidance be given so as to allow not only Belize but the other countries that are signatories to the Gulf of Honduras project to be easily facilitated with the annual maintenance work needed for equipment. The Belize Port Authority is in immediate need of the following equipments to be calibrated and checked by the manufacturer for functionality;

- **Navisound 210 Reson Echo sounder S/N 95524**
- **Valeport 740 Seagraph S/N 4765**
- **Reson sound velocimeter S/N 73250/1708112**
- **Kongsberg Motion Sensor S/N5158**

8. **Other Activities**

Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundaries, Baselines and the Outer Continental Shelf workshop was attended in Suriname from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 as well as a Single Beam Editor Course which was held in Houston Tx on the 30<sup>th</sup> August to September 2015.

9. **National Maritime Website**

[www.portauthority.bz](http://www.portauthority.bz)

10. **Recommendations**

It would be very beneficial if something be put in place that would serve as a successor to the Gulf of Honduras project. This would help us attain support more easily. Equipment maintenance would also be eased in terms of cost and logistics to get equipment functional. At the Port Authority Specifically, we have a number of pressing projects at hand that we would like to see accomplished or get off the ground. We want to continue to progress and carry out our duties as the hydrographic unit and play our role in the maritime arena by providing information that will enhance navigational safety and limit the negative effects of maritime transport on the marine environment.



## Annex 1

<b>IHO/ OHI Yearbook</b>	
Country Name	Belize
Agency Name	Belize Port Authority
<b>Contact Information</b>	
National Hydrographer or equivalent	Post: Lead Hydrographer Name: Michael Anthony Jenkins Postal Address: #120 North Front Street, Belize City. P.o. Box 633 Tel: +5012230714/ +5012230716 Fax: +5012230433 Email: <a href="mailto:bzportauth@btl.net">bzportauth@btl.net</a>
Head of Hydrographic Office	Post: Ports Commissioner Name: Merlene Bailey Martinez Postal Address: #120 North Front Street, Belize City. P.o Box 633 Tel: +5012230714/ +5012230716 Fax: +5012230433 Email: <a href="mailto:bzportauth@btl.net">bzportauth@btl.net</a>
Web Site	<a href="http://www.portauthority.bz">www.portauthority.bz</a>
<b>Country Information</b>	
Declared National tonnage	Tonnage: 869 total registered ships with 250 SOLAS Class with a combined total of 2,371,670 gross tons registered. Date: October, 2015
National day	21 <sup>st</sup> September
Date of Establishment and Relevant Legislation	July 1980 Legislation: Harbours and Merchants Shipping Act chp 234 revised 2003. Laws of Belize Port Authority Act
Date first joined IHO	2007
Date ratification Convention	
Remarks on Membership	Since the Gulf of Honduras Project has come to an end little or no

Annex 1

	support has been had even with the numerous request for added support to get the new Hydrographic department finally able to gather bathymetric data and forward such information to the authorized charting organization
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<b>Agency Information</b>				
Top Level Parent Organization	Ministry of transport, Government of Belize			
Principle functions of the organization or the department	To conduct bathymetric surveys, maintenance if navigational aids, dissemination of navigational hazards and warnings			
Annual operating budget	\$75,000 USD			
Total number of staff employed	Six (6) staff members within the Hydrographic unit			
Number of INT charts published	0			
Number of paper charts published	0			
Number of ENC cells published	0			
Number of other charts	0			
Type of publications produced	---			
Details of surveying vessel	Name	Displacement	Date Launched	Number of Crew
	Sea King	6tons	---	6