

July 31, 2026

www.portauthority.bz

BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER



BPA NEWS INAUGURAL ISSUE

This publication reflects our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and keeping our stakeholders informed about the work being carried out across Belize's maritime sector. Throughout July, our officers and staff remained dedicated to safeguarding Belize's ports and waterways through regulatory oversight, navigational safety, security enforcement, capacity building, and community engagement.

Whether maintaining critical navigational aids, strengthening international security standards, educating the next generation of maritime professionals, or supporting port operations across the country, every initiative contributes to a stronger and more sustainable maritime industry.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our employees, partners, and stakeholders whose continued dedication allows us to fulfill our mandate of delivering ***Maritime Services, Security & Efficiency.***



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES

• About the Belize Port Authority	1
• Maintaining Safe Navigation	2 - 3
• BPA Officer Strengthens Port State Control Expertise Through Regional Training	4 - 5
• Security Spotlight: BPA Advances Maritime Security Through ISPS Training and International Collaboration	6 - 7
• BPA Contributes to Global Review of Aids to Navigation Training in Singapore	8
• Small Boat Handling Course	9
• Maritime in Motion: Honouring the Day of the Seafarer	10- 11
• Vessel Inspection Request	12
• Maritime Summer Camp	13 -14
• Welcoming Zarah Castillo Back to Work	15
• Port Highlight	16
• Harbours and Merchant Shipping (Marina) Regulations, 2024	17
• Maritime and Port Performance	18 -19
• Work Anniversary	20

ABOUT THE BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY

The Belize Port Authority (BPA) is a statutory body established in 1980 and currently falls under the portfolio of the Ministry Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics. The Authority is administered by a Board of Directors.

Under the leadership of the Ports Commissioner, the Belize Port Authority (BPA) is supported by a team of 95 dedicated professionals working to strengthen Belize's maritime industry. The Authority's headquarters in Belize City provides 24/7 operational support, while marine offices in San Pedro, Big Creek, Punta Gorda, and Placencia ensure the BPA maintains a strong presence in key maritime communities throughout the country.

As the country's lead maritime agency, the BPA is responsible for port and harbor development, shipping regulation, maritime safety, patrol operations, and the clearance and inspection of foreign vessels in accordance with national and international requirements.

OUR MISSION

To regulate the maritime industry with a focus on sustainability, safety, and efficiency. We ensure the security of ports and shipping, uphold environmental standards, and promote financial stability. By facilitating maritime commerce and adhering to international standards, we aim to lead Belize's maritime sector toward sustainable growth and global excellence.

OUR VISION

To become the foremost leader in the maritime industry, driving sustainable growth and global excellence through our steadfast commitment to regulating with a focus on sustainability, safety, and efficiency. By ensuring the security of ports and shipping, upholding environmental standards, and promoting financial stability, we will continue to facilitate maritime commerce and adhere to international standards, ultimately shaping Belize's maritime sector into a beacon of sustainable growth and global excellence.

MARITIME SERVICE, SECURITY & EFFICIENCY

MAINTAINING SAFE NAVIGATION



Throughout the months of June and July, the Belize Port Authority continued to fulfill its mandate of maintaining Belize's Aids to Navigation (AtoN), ensuring the country's waterways remain safe and accessible for all mariners.

As part of the Authority's ongoing maintenance programme, the green navigational buoy at Water Caye Spit was serviced to ensure it remains properly positioned, visible, and fully operational. Regular inspections and maintenance of navigational aids play a vital role in supporting safe passage and reducing navigational risks throughout Belize's waters.

**RELIABLE
NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
REMAIN ESSENTIAL
TO SAFE AND
EFFICIENT MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION!**



During this period, the BPA's Aids to Navigation Unit also conducted routine inspections and maintenance of the Northeast Spit Beacon, 3 Triangles Beacon, and Middle Ground Beacon.

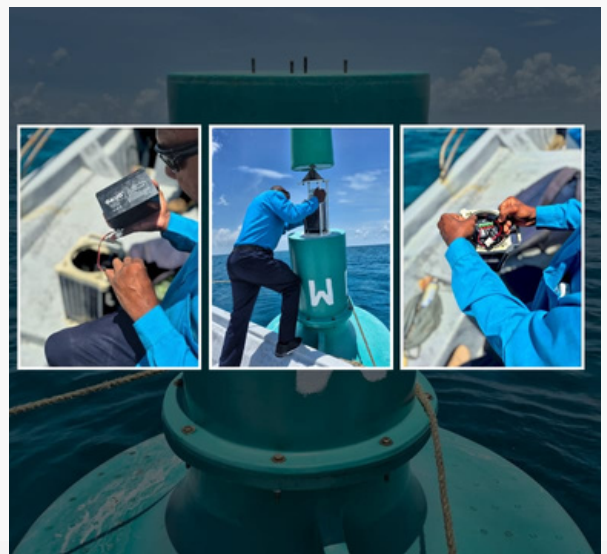
MAINTAINING SAFE NAVIGATION

These scheduled works help preserve the reliability and visibility of critical navigation markers, allowing vessels to navigate Belize's waterways with greater confidence and safety.

In addition to above-water maintenance, officers carried out underwater inspections and servicing of buoy anchoring systems, demonstrating the specialized technical expertise required to keep Belize's navigational infrastructure functioning effectively year-round.

The Belize Port Authority also extends its appreciation to members of the maritime community who continue to report damaged navigational aids and identify areas requiring maintenance or additional equipment.

This ongoing collaboration plays an important role in enhancing maritime safety across Belize.



**RELIABLE
NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
REMAIN ESSENTIAL
TO SAFE AND
EFFICIENT MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION!**



BPA OFFICER STRENGTHENS PORT STATE CONTROL EXPERTISE THROUGH REGIONAL TRAINING



The Belize Port Authority continues to invest in professional development and regional collaboration to strengthen maritime safety and regulatory compliance across Belize's ports.

From June 1–5, 2026, Port State Control Officer Mr. Sherwin Valerio represented the Authority at the 17th Port State Control Seminar and 8th Port State Control On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programme in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. The programme was jointly hosted by the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (CMOU) and the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS).



The training focused on key international maritime conventions, with particular emphasis on SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 5 (Cargo Securing) and MARPOL Annex I (Oil Pollution Prevention). Participants explored inspection procedures, compliance verification, enforcement practices, deficiency reporting, CMIS reporting procedures, electronic certification, and emerging maritime issues, including shadow fleet operations.



A key component of the programme included practical vessel inspections, where participants applied Port State Control inspection techniques in operational environments. These exercises strengthened their ability to assess cargo securing arrangements, verify compliance with international regulations, identify deficiencies, and complete inspection reports using the Caribbean MOU Information System (CMIS).

BPA OFFICER STRENGTHENS PORT STATE CONTROL EXPERTISE THROUGH REGIONAL TRAINING

Following the seminar, Mr. Valerio participated in a two-day On-the-Job Training programme, conducting supervised Port State Control inspections that further enhanced his technical expertise, inspection methodology, and reporting competencies while promoting the exchange of best practices among Port State Control Officers throughout the Caribbean.

The Belize Port Authority recognizes that continuous professional development is essential to maintaining high standards of maritime safety, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance. The knowledge and experience gained through this regional training will further strengthen the Authority's capacity to effectively implement international maritime standards and safeguard Belize's maritime sector.

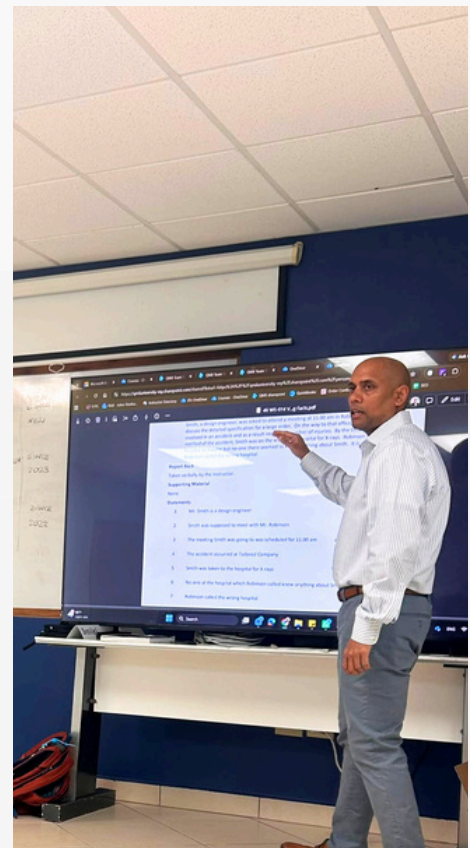


SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

BPA ADVANCES MARITIME SECURITY THROUGH ISPS TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Throughout June 2026, the Belize Port Authority reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Belize's maritime security framework through a series of International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code initiatives focused on professional development, international collaboration, and national capacity building.

A key milestone was the successful hosting of the Authority's inaugural in-house ISPS Code Training and Certification Programme, held from June 22–26 and facilitated by Julius DeSilva, Chief Executive Officer of Quality Management International, Inc. The week-long programme brought together 20 participants representing major maritime security stakeholders, including the Belize Port Authority, Big Creek Group, Fort Street Tourism Village, the Belize Border Management Agency, Harvest Caye, Port of Belize Limited, the Belize Coast Guard, and Puma Energy.



Participants completed specialized certification as Vessel Security Officers (VSO), Company Security Officers (CSO), and Port Facility Security Officers (PFSO), strengthening their understanding of international maritime security requirements and enhancing their ability to effectively implement the ISPS Code across Belize's port facilities. The programme also included specialized ISPS Auditing Training, delivered in collaboration with the Belize Border Management Agency and the Belize Coast Guard, through which ten participants successfully developed the competencies required to conduct ISPS compliance audits and support continuous improvement initiatives.

SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

BPA ADVANCES MARITIME SECURITY THROUGH ISPS TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Complementing these national training efforts, the Belize Port Authority also participated in the United States Coast Guard's International Port Security (IPS) Program, held from June 1–5 in Washington, D.C., and Savannah, Georgia. The Belize delegation, Mr. Eion Lodge (Operations and Safety Supervisor), Mr. Clint McCulloch (Senior Port Inspector), Mr. Edmond Staine (Deputy Port's Commissioner), and Mr. Alvaro Zetina (Board Member) engaged with U.S. Coast Guard officials and maritime security professionals to examine the implementation of the ISPS Code within the United States.



The programme featured presentations, security briefings, operational facility visits, and technical discussions covering cybersecurity, container security, dangerous goods management, port facility operations, and emerging maritime security practices. The exchange strengthened the longstanding partnership between the Belize Port Authority and the U.S. Coast Guard while providing valuable insights that will support the continued enhancement of Belize's maritime security framework.

Further reinforcing these efforts, the BPA's Operations Department – Port Inspectorate Unit, in collaboration with the Belize Border Management Agency, conducted ISPS Port Facility Security Training at Punta Gorda Port. The training emphasized practical application of the ISPS Code through sessions on risk-based security management, Port Facility Security Plans (PFSPs), access control, vulnerability assessments, layered security, security patrols, and effective communication strategies. Participants also explored proactive approaches to protecting port facilities, vessels, cargo, and personnel while maintaining compliance with national and international security requirements.

BPA CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL REVIEW OF AIDS TO NAVIGATION TRAINING IN SINGAPORE



From June 23–26, 2026, Mr. Zachary Young represented the Authority at a four-day workshop in Singapore, organized by the IALA World-Wide Academy in collaboration with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

The workshop brought together 19 representatives from Aids to Navigation (AtoN) authorities, accredited training organizations, academia, and industry consultants to review and enhance the L1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Manager course. The collaborative sessions focused on updating the curriculum and educational framework to reflect evolving industry standards, current educational practices, and emerging developments within the AtoN sector.

Participants explored ways to strengthen the programme by incorporating more practical, scenario-based learning, clearly defined competency outcomes, and content that remains relevant to the changing needs of the maritime industry. Mr. Young's participation provided the Belize Port Authority with the opportunity to contribute to international discussions on the future of Aids to Navigation training, leadership, and professional development. The recommendations developed during the workshop will be consolidated and reviewed by the IALA technical committees to support the continued evolution of the programme.

The Belize Port Authority extends its appreciation to Captain Segar and the staff of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore for their outstanding hospitality and successful facilitation of the workshop. Through participation in initiatives such as these, the Authority continues to strengthen its technical capacity while contributing to the advancement of international maritime standards.

SMALL BOAT HANDLING COURSE

Investing in people remains a key part of building a safer and more resilient maritime sector. In keeping with this commitment, Mr. Noel Young and Mr. Jalen Arnold recently successfully completed the Small Boat Handling Course, graduating alongside officers from the Belize Police Department, Belize Coast Guard, Customs and Excise Department, Fisheries Department, and the Belize Defence Force.

Delivered by the Belize Defence Force Special Boat Unit, the intensive training programme combined classroom instruction with practical, hands-on exercises in seamanship, vessel handling, navigation, maritime safety, and emergency response procedures. The course was designed to strengthen participants' ability to safely and effectively operate small vessels while enhancing operational readiness across their respective organizations.

The participation of officers from multiple national agencies underscored the importance of inter-agency collaboration in advancing maritime safety, security, and professional excellence. By sharing knowledge and developing practical skills together, participants strengthened the partnerships that are essential to protecting Belize's maritime interests.



The successful completion of the course reflects the Authority's continued investment in professional development and its longstanding partnership with the Belize Defence Force. Initiatives such as these help build a highly skilled maritime workforce capable of responding confidently to operational challenges while supporting the safe and efficient management of Belize's waters.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Noel Young, Mr. Jalen Arnold, and all graduating participants for their dedication, discipline, and commitment to continuous learning and professional excellence.



MARITIME IN MOTION

HONOURING DAY OF THE SEAFARER

In celebration of the International Day of the Seafarer 2026, the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WIMAC) Belize Chapter, in partnership with the Belize Port Authority the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE), and the Belize Coast Guard, successfully hosted a Joint Maritime Marathon on June 25, 2026.

The event brought together members of Belize's maritime community in a spirited display of unity, fitness, and camaraderie while recognizing the invaluable contributions of seafarers to global trade, maritime safety, and economic development. Participants from across the maritime sector took to the course in support of this international observance, making the marathon both a celebration and a tribute to those who keep the world's shipping industry moving.

The success of the event was made possible through the collaboration of numerous partner agencies and sponsors. The organizing committee extends its sincere appreciation to the Belize Police Department for providing traffic management and ensuring participant safety, and to the Belize City Council Enforcement Unit for assisting with route coordination.

The Belize Coast Guard played a key role by staffing checkpoints and operating water stations throughout the course, while Caribbean Sprinter generously sponsored a tent and donated a round-trip ticket, which was awarded to the overall first-place finisher.

The Belize Port Authority congratulates all participants for their outstanding performances, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. The Joint Maritime Marathon highlighted the strength of collaboration within Belize's maritime community while serving as a fitting tribute to the dedication, resilience, and professionalism of seafarers around the world.

As the maritime community continues to work together in promoting safety, wellness, and partnership, events such as these reinforce the shared commitment to recognizing the people who play a vital role in connecting Belize and the world through maritime transport.

MARATHON RESULTS

Male Category

- 1st Place: Ardel Avila – 22:46
- 2nd Place: Elden Dawson – 23:20
- 3rd Place: George Choc – 24:41

Female Category

- 1st Place: Gimyma Martinez – 29:11



ENSURING COMPLIANCE

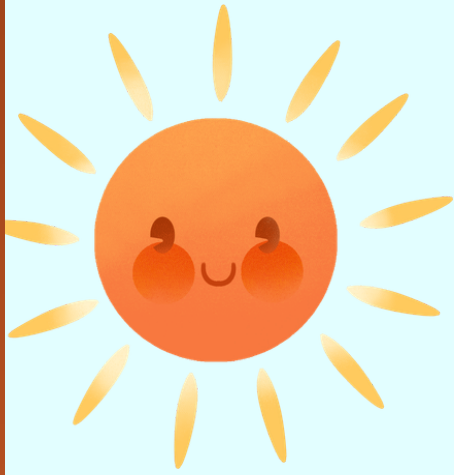
VESSEL INSPECTION REQUEST

All vessel owners, operators, and agents requiring a vessel inspection to ensure that all relevant vessel documentation is complete and readily available prior to requesting an inspection.

To schedule a vessel inspection, please contact the Belize Port Authority through any of the following contact numbers: **222-5665, 222-5666, or Call/WhatsApp: +501 652-5666.**

Appointments should be scheduled in advance to facilitate the timely processing of inspections and ensure compliance with applicable maritime safety and regulatory requirements.

Our team will assist in scheduling a convenient inspection date and provide any additional information you may require



INSPIRING BELIZE'S FUTURE MARINERS

MARITIME SUMMER CAMP

One of the month's most successful initiatives was the Belize Port Authority Maritime Summer Camp 2026, which welcomed more than sixty young participants from Belize City and Cayo. Over two weeks, campers explored careers within the maritime industry while participating in hands-on activities such as rope work, water survival, first aid, CPR, boat safety, leadership development, and team-building exercises.

Educational visits to the Belize Defence Force Air Wing, Belize Coast Guard Base, and BPA Headquarters allowed participants to gain first-hand exposure to maritime and national security operations, providing valuable insight into the agencies responsible for protecting Belize's maritime domain. The programme reflects BPA's commitment to developing future maritime professionals and fostering greater awareness of Belize's maritime industry among the nation's youth.





A STORY OF RESILIENCE:

Welcoming Zarah Castillo Back to Work

Zarah is a young, vibrant, and determined Belizean woman who wears many hats. She is a wheelchair user, entrepreneur, legal clerk, and advocate for persons with disabilities. Since her accident in September 2023, she has faced challenges that would have caused many to lose hope. Being told that she would be paralyzed from the waist down was one of the most heartbreaking moments of her life, and the months that followed were filled with physical, emotional, and mental struggles. Yet, Zarah made a powerful decision: she would not allow her circumstances to define her future.

Through faith, perseverance, and the support of her loved ones, she began rebuilding her life one step at a time. Along the way, she discovered a strength she never knew she had. She learned that resilience is not about never falling, it is about finding the courage to rise again, even after the darkest moments. Reflecting on her journey, Zarah shared that she has gained patience, gratitude, and a deeper appreciation for life's small victories. Most importantly, she has come to understand that her disability does not limit her abilities or her potential.

Her return to work represents far more than simply resuming a job. For Zarah, it is a symbol of independence, confidence, and purpose. It is proof that she is still capable of contributing, growing professionally, and making a meaningful difference. Her presence reminds us that barriers can be broken and that determination can open doors that once seemed impossible.



A STORY OF RESILIENCE:

Welcoming Zarah Castillo Back to Work

Among her proudest accomplishments are graduating with honors after her accident, starting her own business, and returning to work—milestones that once felt out of reach. Each achievement stands as a victory over fear, doubt, and the obstacles placed in her path. Zarah now looks ahead with hope and ambition. She plans to continue growing personally and professionally, expand her business, and use her voice to create more opportunities for persons with disabilities. She is passionate about inspiring others to believe in themselves, regardless of the challenges they may face.

Her message to anyone going through a difficult season is simple yet powerful: ***“It’s okay to cry, to feel overwhelmed, and to have difficult days, but never give up. Your current situation does not determine your future. Take one day at a time, celebrate even the smallest victories, and believe that brighter days are ahead. And most of all, smile!”*** When asked what “defeating the odds” means to her, Zarah said it means refusing to let other people’s expectations or life’s challenges determine what she can accomplish. It is choosing hope over fear and continuing forward even when the journey seems impossible.

If she could describe her journey in one word, it would be “Resilient.” Despite everything she has faced, she continues to rise with courage, determination, and faith. As we welcome Zarah back, we do more than celebrate her return, we celebrate the spirit of resilience she brings with her. Her story is a reminder to all of us that our greatest struggles can become our greatest testimony, and with faith and perseverance, we can overcome even the toughest odds.

PORT HIGHLIGHT



PORT OF BIG CREEK

The Port of Big Creek provides comprehensive cargo handling and maritime services, including bulk and container cargo operations, stevedoring, ship agency, tug and barge services, storage, cold-chain logistics, and property rental. As one of Belize's primary commercial ports, it plays a vital role in facilitating international trade, supporting key export industries, and ensuring the efficient movement of goods.

The Belize Port Authority collaborates through regulatory oversight, maritime safety and security compliance, pilotage, vessel traffic management, inspections, and port state control to ensure the Port of Big Creek operates safely and efficiently while meeting national legislation and international maritime standards. Through these functions, the Authority helps maintain secure, reliable, and environmentally responsible port operations.

HARBOURS AND MERCHANT (MARINA) SHIPPING REGULATIONS 2024

The Harbours and Merchant Shipping Regulations establish the legal framework governing maritime activities within Belize's ports, harbours, and territorial waters. These regulations are designed to promote the safe, secure, and efficient operation of vessels while ensuring compliance with national legislation and internationally recognized maritime standards.

The regulations set out requirements for vessel registration and operation, navigation, port safety, pollution prevention, and the responsibilities of vessel owners, operators, and other maritime stakeholders. They also provide the foundation for the orderly management of port activities, contributing to the protection of lives, property, and the marine environment.

The Belize Port Authority encourages all vessel owners, operators, and port users to remain informed of their obligations under the Harbours and Merchant Shipping Regulations and to comply with all applicable requirements. Adherence to these regulations is essential to maintaining a safe, efficient, and sustainable maritime sector that supports national development and the continued growth of Belize's blue economy.

To learn more about the Harbours and Merchant Shipping Regulations, scan the QR code.



SCAN HERE

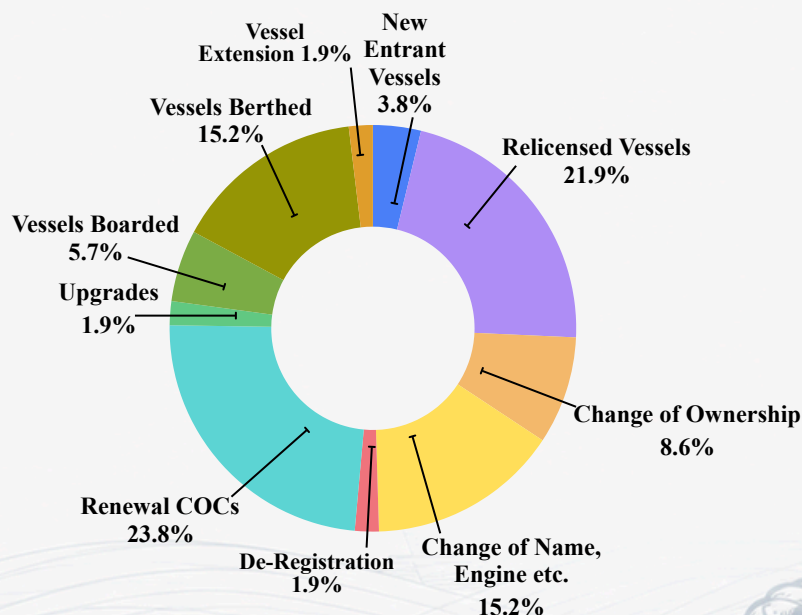


MARITIME AND PORT JUNE PERFORMANCE

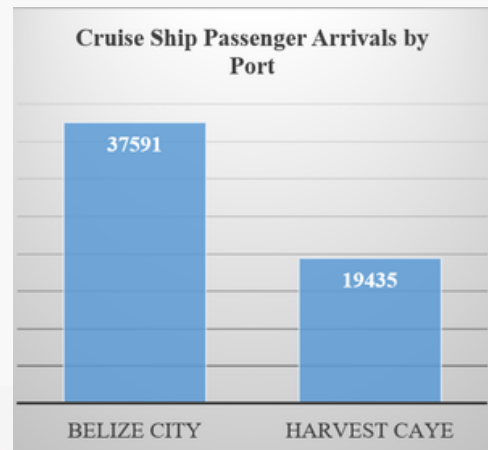
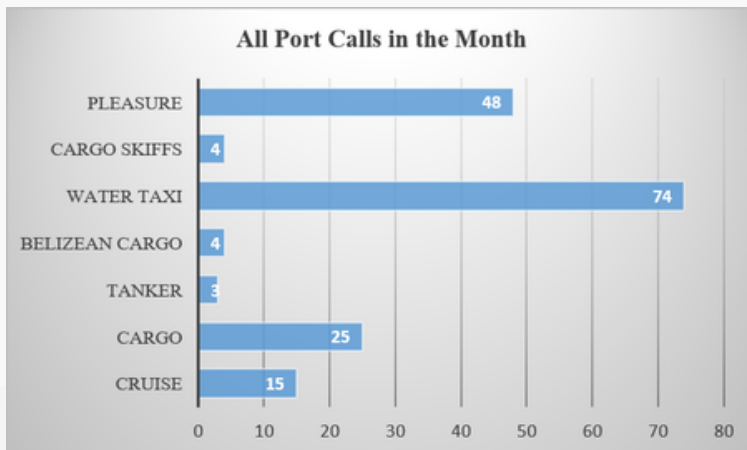
The Belize Port Authority's Technical Department continues to play a vital role in monitoring maritime activity and compiling statistical data to support regulatory oversight and operational planning across Belize's port sector. Through the collection and analysis of operational data, the Department provides valuable insights that assist in evaluating trends within the country's maritime industry.

During June 2026, a total of one hundred seventy-three (173) vessels called at ports throughout Belize. This represents a slight decrease from May 2026, when one hundred seventy-seven (177) vessels were recorded. Of the total vessel arrivals in June, forty-three (43) were foreign merchant marine vessels calling at ports within the country. This marks an increase of four (4) foreign merchant vessel arrivals compared to May 2026, reflecting continued growth in international maritime trade despite the overall reduction in total vessel traffic.

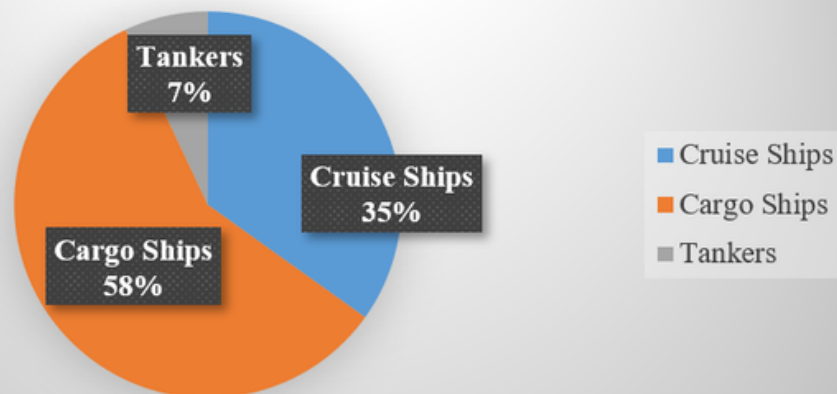
The accompanying statistical tables on the following pages present a comprehensive overview of key maritime indicators for the June 2026 reporting period, including passenger movement statistics, passenger user fees, vessel arrivals, and other operational data. These statistics provide valuable insight into the level of activity within Belize's maritime sector and support informed decision-making, while underscoring the Belize Port Authority's ongoing commitment to safe, efficient, and well-regulated port operations.



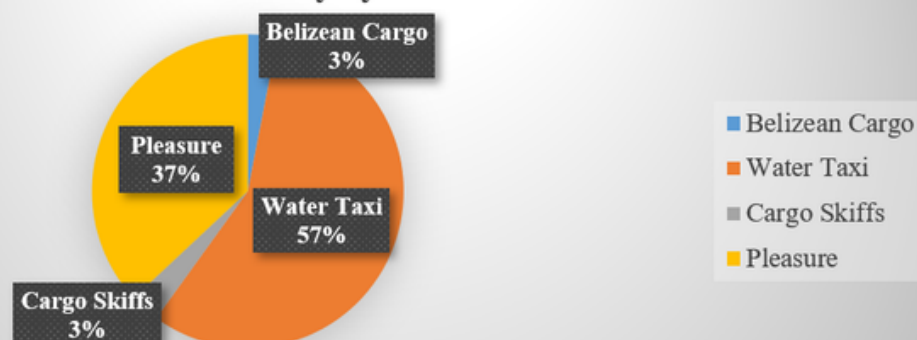
MARITIME AND PORT JUNE PERFORMANCE



Port Calls by Merchant Marine Vessels (Ships)



Port Calls by Small Vessels



C E L E B R A T I N G O U R

Work Anniversary

Employees	Start Date	Total Years of Service
Jeannette Jones	Jun 4, 2007	19 years
Carissia Clarke	Jun 25, 2018	8 years
Gregory Banner	Jun 13, 2022	4 years
Daniel Sabal	Jun 16, 2023	3 years
Rosita Garnett	Jun 16, 2021	5 years
Aaden Vaughan	Jun 25, 2024	2 years
Tanisha King	Jun 7, 2021	5 years
Keeron Young	Jul 18, 2017	9 years
Clint McCulloch	Jul 1, 2021	5 years

At the Belize Port Authority, we take great pride in recognizing the dedicated employees celebrating their work anniversaries this month. Each milestone reflects years of commitment, professionalism, and unwavering service to the Authority and the maritime sector of Belize.

Your dedication, expertise, and hard work have played an important role in advancing our mission of promoting safe, efficient, and sustainable maritime operations. Through your daily efforts, you continue to strengthen our organization and contribute to the growth and development of Belize's maritime industry.

NATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNICATION CENTER

SAFEGUARDING BELIZE'S WATERS 24/7

The **National Maritime Communication Center (NMCC)** remains at the forefront of maritime safety and security in Belize, providing continuous monitoring and communication services that support the safe movement of vessels within the country's territorial waters.

Staffed by a dedicated team of eight officers working on a rotating shift schedule, the NMCC operates **24/7** ensuring that assistance and coordination are always available whenever needed.

In accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the Center provides essential vessel traffic services through continuous maritime surveillance and the constant monitoring of the international distress frequency, **VHF Channel 16**. This enables the prompt receipt of emergency calls, effective coordination during maritime incidents, and support for safe navigation throughout Belize's waters.

In addition to its operational responsibilities, the NMCC serves as a primary point of contact for the maritime community. Customers can conveniently access a wide range of Belize Port Authority services through the Authority's website at www.portauthority.bz, by email at bzportauth@btl.net, or by contacting the NMCC at **222-5666**. The Center also continues to facilitate vessel clearances, while the dedicated Maritime Emergency Number (**966**) remains available to ensure immediate assistance during maritime emergencies.