



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE
"IMMARBE"

A WORD FROM THE HELM



Dear Yacht Owner,

Belize is often referred to as "mother nature's best kept secret" and a "jewel" of the Caribbean. It has the second largest barrier reef in the world, its waters are pristine and its wildlife and marine resources are abundant and well preserved. As the result, its tourism industry is growing rapidly. At the same time, Belize's ship registry, IMMARBE, "the friendly flag of quality", has distinguished itself as being one of only 13 Flag States in the world to hold the prestigious U.S. Coast Guard "Qualship 21" designation. Consequently, it is entirely appropriate that we should seek to specialize in the registration of yachts, a popular and growing sector in our area, the Caribbean.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce the introduction of our three separate Codes of enhanced Standards which define yachts by use, size and operational range. I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those in the industry who contributed to the development of our Codes and whose names appear in the relevant Annex to each Code. As someone who has recently celebrated his 40th year in the shipping industry and as an owner of a small sportfisher/cruiser, I highly commend these Codes to you. Compliance with their requirements will go a long way in ensuring the safety of your family, friends and other passengers onboard as well as to their enjoyment of yacht-based leisure and sporting activities. At the same time, these Codes will enhance the chartering prospects of your yacht, its market value and operating life.

In my view, hoisting the Belize flag on the stern of your yacht is the best seal of approval you can obtain for your prized possession.

Bon voyage!

Angelo Mouzouropoulos FICS, FCI Arb.
Director General