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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Blue Economy Addresses Concerns over Floating Drilling Rig near Hol Chan Marine Reserve

Belmopan, June 1, 2023.

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) acknowledges the concerns raised on social media regarding the sighting of a floating drilling rig about 15 miles outside of the Hol Chan Marine Reserve earlier today. MBECA reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the protection of our marine reserves and the maritime space of Belize.

In coordination with the Department of the Environment, the Belize Port Authority, and the Belize Coast Guard, the ministry conducted an investigation into the situation and confirmed that Rig Frida 1 is present in Belizean waters as part of its re-licensing exercise with Mexican authorities. This exercise requires the rig to temporarily leave Mexican waters and its presence in Belizean waters aligns with the required protocols.

MBECA understands the concerns surrounding offshore oil drilling and reminds the public that there is presently a moratorium on offshore oil drilling in Belize.

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation continues to be committed to maintaining the ecological integrity of our marine reserves and ensuring sustainable and environmentally safe practices in our blue economy sector and blue space.

Ends

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