

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS

Technical Circular 017 - 2020

For:	Shipowners, Masters and Legal Representative / Resident Agents
On Behalf:	Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Conservation and Management Measure CMM 2014-02 - WCPFC.
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/017/2020

The Aquatic Resources Authority informs the Shipowners, Masters, Legal Representative and Resident Agents that, in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation and Management Measure CMM 2014-02, which adopted the Monitoring System of vessels of the Fisheries Commission Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC), all Panamanian flag vessels of international service that are active in the WCPFC Regional Vessel registry, must report their position to the Commission, through an Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)'s VMS, which is a vessel tracking system, developed, managed and operated by the Secretariat and FFA Members.

In this sense, to comply with the requirements established by the VMS-FFA vessel monitoring system, the WCPFC Secretariat has provided the VTAF application form (Vessel Tracking Agreement Form), attached to this circular, in which the required data is collected from the vessel to complete the activation in the Commission's VMS database.

✓ Important and Mandatory Character

In accordance with the aforementioned, it is necessary that vessels operating within the WCPFC convention area, comply with the following points to consider:

1. All vessels listed in the WCPFC fishing vessel registry and that are authorized to operate in the Convention Area, must provide a VTAF to the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) and the Commission Secretariat to the emails: transshipment@arap.gob.pa, hsfs@arap.gob.pa and vmshelpdesk@wcpfc.int.
2. The vessels must inform the WCPFC Secretariat of their position at all times while in the Convention area, which also extends to all coastal waters of the Convention Area (such as: EEZ, coasts and ports). If the vessel is to shut down its VMS for dry dock repair work, the Authority and Secretariat must be informed of this and the period in which said equipment will be shut down.
3. It is reiterated that every vessel with an international fishing license must comply with its reports and daily transmission frequency to the Authority. However, in the case of the WCPFC, vessels that are operating outside the convention area must provide at least one (1) notification per day to the WCPFC Secretariat through the systems established by them.
4. All VMS beacons installed on board of the vessels and configured to transmit their position, both to the Secretariat of the Commission and to the ARAP, must be duly switched on and transmitting their position with no interruption, and according to the measures established by the Commission, excluding the indicated in point 2 about entering the dry dock.

For more information, please contact:

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