

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS

Technical Circular 023 – 2021

For:	Shipowners, Masters and Legal Representative / Resident Agents
On Behalf:	Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Compliance in the Transshipment Activities Reports of the Panamanian Fishing Vessels of International Service.
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/023/2021_EN

The Aquatic Resources Authority informs to the Shipowners, Operator, Masters and Resident Agents that, in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Measures related to transshipment and landing in ports activities for each Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), this authority has adopted regulations for the proper compliance with these measures in the Panamanian flag fishing fleet of international service.

In this sense, the ARAP by means of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, in its Article 24 indicates that, "The Authority through regulations will establish procedures and the format of the data and information to be collected and transmitted by the employers or captains of all vessel engaged in fishing, and activities related to fishing", being so, all vessels at the time of carrying out their activities related to the transshipment or transfer of fishery products and discharges in authorized ports must report their activities to the ARAP and to RFMOs.

In the same way, it is important to remember that, Article 22 of the Executive Decree No. 161 of 6 June, 2013 establishes that the captains of the vessels for catching and fishing support or fishing related activities will present their respective transshipment declarations (report of transshipment) as soon as possible and, in any case, within a maximum period of forty-eight (48) hours after the transshipment as long as these vessels are a Panamanian flag, otherwise, the receiving Panamanian vessel must collect this information at the time of transshipment.

In accordance with the aforementioned, the Authority requests the Captains or Masters, Shipowners and Resident Agents that vessels provide the said information to each respective RFMO and with a copy to the ARAP in accordance with the guidelines issued in letter No. DCI-ARAP- 178-2020 of October 16, 2020, which we again attach in this circular.

1. Prior Notification to the Transshipment, within a period of no less than 48 hours before carrying out the activity.

2. Transshipment Declaration, within a period of no more than 48 hours after completing the activity.

3. Real-time report of the transshipment to the NEAFC within a period of no less than one hour of the transshipment electronically according to the Scheme of Control and Enforcement of the Commission.

4. Port Entry Notification, within a period of no less than 24 hours before arrival at the discharge port.

5. Port Landing Report, within a period of no more than 24 hours after completing the discharge of the species at port.

✓ **Important and Mandatory Character**

To ensure compliance with the guidelines described in this circular, it is necessary that all vessels involved in activities related to fishing under the Panamanian flag that carry out activities of transport and discharges in port in each RFMO comply with the provisions of this circular.

Failure to comply with these measures will be considered serious infractions to the current fishing regulations in accordance with the provisions of Article 145 of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, "That regulates fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and dictates other provisions".

For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

Directorate for Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Panama Aquatic Resources Authority
Phone: (+507) 511-6008 / 511-6019
Email: hsfs@arap.gob.pa