

**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS**

Technical Circular

042 – 2022

To:	Shipowners / Operators / Masters / Legal Representatives
From:	Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Tema:	Panama's status with WCPFC Fisheries Commission
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/042/2022

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) informs Shipowners, Operators, Captains and Resident Agents that the Republic of Panama has renewed its status as a Cooperating, Active Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) before the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the period 2022-2023, pending official communication from the WCPFC regarding the decision made by the Members of the Organization during the recent 19th Annual Meeting of the Commission, which was held in Da Nang, Vietnam from November 27 to December 3, 2022.

In this regard, Panama's participation rights in the WCPFC continue to be established to the provision of transport vessels and fuel. Panama's participation rights also apply to vessels supplying food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels engaged in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels are not engaged in support activities for fishing vessels, including the supply and/or servicing of FADs.

Therefore, ARAP will ensure that all vessels intending to enter the WCPFC Convention Area comply with the conservation and management regulations and measures established and adopted by the Organism as well as domestic and international fisheries regulations.

✓ Important and Mandatory

It is necessary that all international service fishing vessels that intend to operate in the Commission's regulatory area fully comply with the recommendations of the WCPFC established in the framework of the Convention, in particular the management and conservation measures until Panama's participation is formalized and that they are publicly authorized on the Commission's web page prior to the start of operations. It is also reported that the decision has been taken about the necessity of **observers during the refrigerated cargo vessels activities, starting January 1, 2023**; the processes for this will be communicated soon.

Vessels detected in activities in violation of the rules and recommendations established by the WCPFC shall be subject to the application of the regulations in force established by this Authority in sanctioning matters.

For more information on this Technical Circular, please contact:

Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Aquatic Resource Authority of Panamá
Phone: (+507) 511-6008
E-mail: hsfs@arap.gob.pa