

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

Technical Circular 052 – 2023

To:	Shipowners, Operators, Captains and Resident Agents
From:	Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Conditional Renewal of Panama's Status before the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/052/2023

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama hereby communicates the following:

1. Panama renews its status as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the NPFC, from March 25, 2023 until the next meeting of the Commission.
2. **IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT**
In the event of any non-compliance by the Panamanian fleet of fishing related activities, the Commission may revoke Panama's status and expel the entire fleet from the area.
As a requirement for Panama's renewal, it was established that upon the occurrence of any "**new event of non-compliance**" by the Panama fishing related activities fleet, in contravention of the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures, the CNCP status will be subject to the provisions of paragraph 18 of NPFC Rule of Procedure No. 10, including, as appropriate, the consideration of the revocation of the CNCP status of the Republic of Panama. The aforementioned rule indicates:

"10.18 CNCPs that fail to comply with any of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission shall be deemed to have undermined the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. The Commission shall take appropriate action, which may include revocation of CNCP status and/or sanctions and penalties against such CNCPs, in accordance with the Convention and adopted conservation and management measures."
3. **That participation rights are limited to tankers and refrigerated cargo vessels authorized to carry out activities in the area and with products regulated by NPFC.**
4. Registered and authorized vessels will be conditioned to strict compliance with all Commission Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), as well as flag State Management Measures.
5. You are invited to a meeting on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in virtual mode by zoom, **where the new conditions established by the Commission and the date of commencement of operations in the Commission area will be presented**, the update of the direct contact (name, position, e-mail and telephone) for each vessel is required, in order to provide you with the information for participation in this meeting before March 31, 2023.

Send requested information to the account hsfs@arap.gob.pa.

✓ **Important and Mandatory**

The requirements and procedures agreed in the Compliance Letter, according to Technical Circular No. 022-2021, which ensure compliance with the adopted conservation and management measures (CMMs) and their future modifications, must be applied in accordance with the regulations of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).

Failure to comply with the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures and the guidelines described in this circular will be subject to the application of the current regulations established by this Authority in matter of sanctions.

For more information on this Technical Circular, please contact:

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