

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS

Technical Circular 025 – 2021

To:	Resident Agents and Shipowners
From:	Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Compliance with the fishing license renewal period for Panamanian international fishing vessels.
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/025/2021_EN

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama informs Resident Agents and Shipowners that they must comply with the provisions of Executive Decree 131 of April 14, 2020, *"Which establishes and regulates catch licenses and fishing-related activities for national flag vessels of international service and dictates provisions to prevent, discourage and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing"*.

Article 18 of said decree establishes the following:

*"Article 18. The application for renewal of an international fishing service license must be **submitted to the Authority no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to its expiration**, and the date of issuance of said license shall be the day of the expiration date of the previous license.*

In the case of a request for renewal submitted to the Authority after the indicated term or with the license already expired, the new international service fishing license shall be granted effective as of the date of its issuance".

In accordance with the aforementioned, the Authority requests that Shipowners and Resident Agents comply with the provisions of said article and considers it necessary to exercise greater control in the issuance of fishing licenses and fishing-related activities, in order to optimize the work and commitment of the Panamanian State to prevent, discourage and eliminate IUU fishing.

✓ **Important and Mandatory**

To ensure compliance with the guidelines described in this circular, it is necessary that owners and resident agents of fishing vessels and fishing related activities, who opt for an international service license renewal, comply with the time period established in said decree and in this circular.

If the application for renewal of the fishing license is submitted after the term indicated in Article 18 of Executive Decree No. 131 of April 14, 2020, the new international service fishing license shall be granted effective as of the date of its issuance; and if the vessel carry out fishing activities or activities related to fishing without having a valid license, it shall incur in IUU fishing, being considered as serious violations to the current fishing regulations in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, "Which regulates fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and dictates other provisions".

For more information on this Technical Circular, please contact:

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