

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS

Technical Circular 020 - 2021

For:	Shipowners, Masters and Legal Representative / Resident Agents
On Behalf:	Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Status before to the NPFC and fleet marking of Panamanian flagged vessels
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/020/2021

The Aquatic Resources Authority informs Shipowners, Masters and Resident Agents that, the Republic of Panama has renewed its status as Cooperating No Contracting Party (CNC) before the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), a decision that was widely discussed by the Members of the Organization in the recent virtual Annual Session, held in Japan, on February 23rd to 25th this year; in this sense, the authorization of Panamanian flagged fishing vessels for international service to carry out operations with regulated resources within the NPFC's Convention Area, will be subject to compliance and corresponding registration, according to the requirements established by the Commission prior being authorized.

All fishing vessels or fishing-related activities must comply with the minimum standards established by the FAO, regarding identification and marking guide detailed below:

- **International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) or Radio Letter**, must be visible on the hull of the vessel or on the superstructure, as high as possible, on deck or any horizontal surface, in such a way that it can be sighted from another vessel or from the air.
- **The name of the Vessel**, must be visible on the hull, superstructure and stern of the vessel, in such a way that it can be sighted from another vessel or from the air.
- **The Registration number of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, on the stern or on the hull or superstructure, as well as on the inside, legible with the naked eye according to the standards of said organization, in such a way that it can be sighted from another vessel or from the air.
- **National Registry Number**, which must be visible on the hull of the vessel or on the superstructure, as high as possible, on the deck or any horizontal surface, so that it can be sighted from another vessel or from the air.
- **Name of the Port of Registration**, which must be on the hull, superstructure and stern of the vessel, so that it can be sighted from another vessel or from the air.
- **Vessel Location Communication Equipment (VMS, Vessel Monitoring System)**, which must be connected and constantly transmitting satellite communication data to our Fishing Monitoring Center - FMC (location, speed, course, date and time) according to our regulations.

ARAP has initiated an information exchange process with the NPFC Secretariat to detail the requirements that may apply, which may include a regional program of on-board observers during transshipment, among others.

The vessel must prove compliance with all management measures of the flag State and the Commission. Therefore, we will ensure that all authorized vessels shall have painted, on the hull and superstructures, the markings that allow easy identification of the vessel in accordance with the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of fishing vessels, and we recognize that the non-compliance of these rules, will be considered a serious violation according to domestic and international regulations, as well as the

conservation measures of each Regional and Subregional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMOs), Article 21 Paragraph 11 (f) of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in 1995 and the measures approved by the FAO World Fisheries Conference in 1984, adopted through Law No. 64 of October 29, 2008.

The marking for the identification of fishing vessels and activities related to fishing must comply with the minimum standard according to length, using the following table as a reference, the following chart:

Total Length	Height font size / numbers should not be less than
25 m or more	1.0 m
20 m ≥ 25 m	0.8 m
15 m ≥ 20 m	0.6 m
12 m ≥ 15 m	0.4 m
5 m ≥ 12 m	0.3 m
< 5 m	0.1 m

The following will be considered serious breaches to Article 21, Paragraph 11 (f) of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in 1995:

- a) fishing without a valid license, authorization or permit issued by the flag State in accordance with article 18, paragraph 3 (a);
- b) failing to maintain accurate records of catch and catch-related data, as required by the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, or serious misreporting of catch, contrary to the catch reporting requirements of such organization or arrangement;
- c) fishing in a closed area, fishing during a closed season or fishing without, or after attainment of, a quota established by the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement;
- d) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium or for which fishing is prohibited;
- e) using prohibited fishing gear;
- f) falsifying or concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- g) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to an investigation;
- h) multiple violations which together constitute a serious disregard of conservation and management measures; or
- i) such other violations as may be specified in procedures established by the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement.

✓ **Important and Mandatory**

The International Fisheries Affairs Directorate will request updated information on the vessels, prior to the entry of the vessels before this Commission or any other.

It is necessary that all Panamanian flagged fishing vessels and activities related to fishing, comply with the provisions in accordance with the marking and identification standards of the vessel.

Vessels that are detected in activities that violate national regulations, the United Nations Agreement on Fish Stocks in 1995 and the measures approved by the FAO World Fisheries Conference in 1984 and any international regulations, will be subject to the application of the regulations in force established by this Authority regarding sanctions.

For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

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