

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

**Technical Circular
053-2023**

To:	Shipowners / Operators / Masters / Legal Representatives
From:	Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Compliance in the reporting of transshipment and unloading activities of Panamanian fishing vessels and activities related fishing vessels of international service.
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/053/2023_EN

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

In this sense, the ARAP through **Law 204 of March 18, 2021**, in its Article 24 indicates that *"The Authority by regulation shall establish procedures and the format of the data and information to be collected and transmitted by the skippers or captains of all vessels engaged in fishing, related activities and activities related to fishing"*, thus, all vessels at the time of performing their activities related to the transshipment or transfer and landing of fishery products of regulated and/or unregulated species at authorized ports, must report their activities to the ARAP and RFMOs, accordingly.

In addition to the above, the ARAP through **Law 204 of March 18, 2021**, in its Article 64 indicates that, *"The Authority will establish the conditions under which activities related to fishing are allowed, when they are carried out, both in port and at sea, so that the Authority can ensure adequate monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as the timely receipt of data reports and pertinent information"* thus, all activities related to fishing such as transshipment, landing, provisions personnel, fuel and other supplies, both in port and at sea, must be previously authorized by this Authority.

Likewise, it is important to remember that, Article 22 of Executive Decree No. 161 of June 6, 2013 establishes that *"the captains of catching and fishing support vessels shall submit their respective transshipment declarations 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 Panamanian flagged, otherwise the receiving vessel shall collect this information at the time of transshipment."*

According to the above mentioned, the Authority requests the Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents, that the vessels provide such information to each respective RFMO and to the ARAP as detailed in the following tables:

Table 1. Previous Transshipment Notifications

No.	Formats	RFMO	Prior Notification Period to RFMO	Prior Notification Period to ARAP	E-mail
1	IATTC PRE - Transshipment Notification	IATTC	Not applicable	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
2	ICCAT PRE -Transshipment Notification	ICCAT	Not applicable	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
3	CMM 12 PRE - Transshipment (Template version May 2019)	SPRFMO	At least 12 hours before	At least 12 hours before	secretariat@sprfmo.int data@sprfmo.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
4	WCPFC PRE - Transshipment Notification	WCPFC	At least 36 hours before	At least 36 hours before	transshipment@wcpfc.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
5	NPFC Advance Notification for Transshipments	NPFC	At least 24 hours before (temporary)	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@npfc.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
6	CCSBT Transshipment Notification	CCSBT	Not applicable	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
7	Format for Transshipment Notifications (<i>Column: Notified Information</i>) Anexo 10-09/A	CCAMLR	At Least 72 hours before	At least 72 hours before	fmc@ccamlr.org ccamlr@ccamlr.org transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
8	IOTC Transshipment Pre-Notification	IOTC	Not applicable	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
9	NEAFC Transshipment Pre-Notification	NEAFC	Not applicable	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com

Note: For transshipments at sea with fishery products not regulated by any Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), **the vessel must send the prior transshipment notification only to ARAP, no later than 24 hours before carrying out the activity, using the ARAP template (Annex 1).**

Table 2. Transshipment Declarations

No.	Formats	RFMO	Declaration Period to RFMO	Declaration Period to ARAP	E-mail
1	IATTC Transshipment Declaration	IATTC	At most 24 hours after	At most 48 hours later	transshipments@iattc.org transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
2	ICCAT Transshipment Declaration (CP19_TransDec)	ICCAT	At most 24 hours after	At most 48 hours later	info@iccat.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
3	CMM 12 Transshipment Declaration	SPRFMO	At most 7 days after	At most 48 hours later	secretariat@sprfmo.int data@sprfmo.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
4	WCPFC - Transshipment Declaration	WCPFC	At most 15 days after	At most 48 hours later	transshipment@wcpfc.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
5	NPFC Transshipment Declaration	NPFC	At most 10 days after	At most 48 hours later	transshipment@npfc.int transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
6	ANNEX I - CCSBT Transshipment Declaration	CCSBT	At most 24 hours after	At most 48 hours later	compliance@ccsbt.org transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
7	Format for transshipment notifications (<i>Column: Confirmed Information</i>). Anexo 10-09/A	CCAMLR	At most 3 days later	At most 48 hours later	fmc@ccamlr.org ccamlr@ccamlr.org transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
8	IOTC Transshipment Declaration	IOTC	At most 24 hours after	At most 48 hours later	iotc-transshipment@fao.org transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
9	ERS – Electronic Report System (Marlin Pro – CLS) ¹ NEAFC – Transshipment Declaration ² (only for ARAP).	NEAFC	¹ At most 1 hour later	² At most 48 hours later	¹ NEAFC, envío por sistema ERS ² transshipment@arap.gob.pa ² transshipment.arap@gmail.com

Note: For transshipments at sea with fishery products not regulated by any Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), **the vessel must send the transshipment declaration only to ARAP no later than 48 hours after the end of the activity**, using the ARAP template (Annex 2).

Table 3. Other formats exclusively for ARAP

No.	Formats	Detail	Reporting Period to ARAP	E-mail
1	Port Entry Notification Template	Prior notification of entry to Foreign Authorized or Panamanian Ports	At least 24 hours before	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
2	Port Discharge Report (F-INS-017-20 Ver.2)	Report of the discharge done in foreign or Panamanian Ports	At least 24 hours after	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com
3	Quarterly Transshipment Report	Quarterly accumulated transshipments by vessel	At least 8 days after the end of the quarter.	transshipment@arap.gob.pa transshipment.arap@gmail.com

✓ **Important and Mandatory**

To ensure compliance with the guidelines described in this circular, it is necessary that all vessels engaged in fishing related activities under the Panamanian flag that carry out transshipment and unloading activities in port and in each OROPS comply with the provisions of this circular.

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

All the templates listed in this circular can be found on the ARAP website (ara.gob.pa), section High Seas Fisheries / RFMO's Transshipment Templates, at the following link: <https://arap.gob.pa/plantillasdetrasbordo/>.

[This technical circular replaces technical circular no. 040-2022.](#)

For more information on this Technical Circular, please contact:

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