
AUTORIDAD DE LOS RECURSOS ACUÁTICOS DE PANAMÁ



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

N°82

FOR: Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents

FROM: General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control

SUBJECT: Resolution Adm/ARAP 079 from December 26, 2023

DATE: April 17, 2024

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) reiterates to Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents that through Resolution ADM/ARAP 079 of December 26, 2023, the requirements for transshipment activities of fishing and fishing related activities vessels under the national flag of international service, were established. In particular we refer to what the Resolution establishes in its Fourth Article:

“ARTICLE 4”. As of July 1, 2024, every vessel with a license for activities related to fishing that carries out transshipment operations in port or on the high seas must have at least one observer on board throughout the development of the operation from an entity that has obtained recognition from the Authority to carry out an Observer Program, in accordance with current applicable regulations. Prior to start the fishing trip, the master, shipowner or operator of the vessel must notify the General Directorate of Research and Development, the complete data of the observer on board who will participate in the operation, as well as the information of the recognized Observer Program to which this one belongs; Otherwise, the transshipment will not be authorized.

Paragraph: Exceptions to the provisions of this article are those vessels that have an observer on board that is part of the regional and national observer programs on board recognized by any Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO).

Based on the above, we request to contact the program of your preference in order to ensure having an observer on board by July 1, 2024, in compliance with the administrative resolution described above. Below we list the entities recognized by this Authority that have an observer program in accordance with the current applicable regulations, so that the corresponding coordination can be carried out:

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✓ **Important and Mandatory**

It is important to mention that according to the provisions of EXECUTIVE DECREE No. 13 of November 1, 2023, which regulates Law 204 of 2021, on Expenses borne by international service vessels, in its article 87, it establishes the following:

Article 87. Panamanian flag vessels with a commercial fishing license for international service that are duly authorized to carry out such activities must assume the expenses incurred in the national or regional observer programs on board, as well as the expenses incurred. During the inspection procedures of the vessel by the Authority, such travel expenses, ticket, safe accommodation and any other that is necessary for the development of the task.

This Authority will ensure proper compliance with what is established in Resolution ADM/ARAP 079. Likewise, the Authority reiterates its responsibility as a flag State in implementing the necessary measures to combat IUU fishing.

Attached:

- ✓ Resolution Adm/ARAP 079 from December 26, 2023

For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

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