
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

USOROP N° 2026-002

TO: Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents of Panamanian-flagged vessels authorized in the ICCAT Commission's Vessel Register

FROM: Unit for the Follow-Up of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations – USOROP

SUBJECT: Procedure for the Calculation and Allocation of the Financial Contribution of Panamanian-Flagged Vessels to the Country Quota of the Republic of Panama before ICCAT – Year 2026.

DATE: January 27, 2026.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) hereby informs owners, shipowners, operators, and legal representatives of Panamanian-flagged vessels that, in accordance with the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Panama before the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the procedure for the calculation and allocation of the financial contribution corresponding to Panama's country quota before said Commission for the year 2026 is hereby established.

1. CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO THE ICCAT BUDGET

By means of an official communication dated 20 January 2026, the ICCAT Executive Secretariat formally notified the Republic of Panama of its contribution to the Commission's annual budget for the year 2026, which amounts to **one hundred sixty-six thousand seven hundred eight euros and ninety-seven cents (€166,708.97)**.

2. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This procedure is based on the following regulatory framework:
Executive Decree No. 13 of 1 November 2023, which regulates Law No. 204 of 2021 governing fisheries and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and establishes other provisions.

Article 75 ... "The owners and/or holders of an international service vessel, in addition to the cost of the license, shall cover the financial contributions determined by the Authority to support participation in the relevant RFMO, the calculation of which shall be carried out in proportion

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to the activities conducted, in accordance with their participation as a fishing vessel or as a vessel engaged in fishing-related activities.”

Administrative Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 056 of 30 July 2025, which amends Administrative Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 013 of 29 February 2024, adopting ICCAT Recommendation 21-14 and establishing provisions for covering contributions to the annual budget of said Commission.

Article 3: *Any vessel holding an international commercial fishing license, registered in the ICCAT Record of Vessels, and having carried out activities in accordance with its participation as a fishing vessel or a vessel engaged in fishing-related activities within the ICCAT Convention Area, under the Panama chapter, shall contribute to the annual budget of said organization. As from fiscal year 2025, said budget shall be financed in accordance with the following percentage distribution:*

Vessels with a commercial fishing license for international capture service and vessels with a commercial fishing license for international fishing-related activities.	90%
The Authority	10%

Article 4: *The ninety percent (90%) corresponding to the distribution of the country quota shall be divided equally among vessels holding international commercial fishing licenses and those licensed for fishing-related activities.*

3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONTRIBUTION FOR THE YEAR 2026

In accordance with Article 3 of Administrative Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 056 of 30 July 2025, the contribution of the Republic of Panama for the year 2026 is distributed as follows:

Vessels with a commercial fishing license for international capture service and vessels with a commercial fishing license for international fishing-related activities.	90%	€150,038.07
Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP)	10%	€16,670.90

4. CALCULATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION PER VESSEL

According to the report provided by the Fisheries Monitoring and Control Center (CCSP) of ARAP, a total of twenty-five (25) vessels operated in the ICCAT Convention Area during the year 2025.

Accordingly, the amount payable per vessel is calculated as follows:

$$€150,038.07 \div 25 \text{ vessels} = €6,001.53 \text{ per vessel}$$

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As the amount payable is expressed in euros (EUR), it should be noted that ICCAT applies the official United Nations exchange rate known as the Operational Rates of Exchange, which reflects the conversion value of the United States dollar (USD) against other currencies, including the euro (EUR), for deposits made in U.S. dollars.

This rate is periodically updated and may differ from market exchange rates; therefore, it is recommended to verify the applicable rate published by the United Nations at the time the deposit is made and to request that the banking institution apply said rate. This will help avoid discrepancies in the credited amount and potential issues when requesting payment certification from ICCAT.

5. COMMUNICATION TO ADMINISTERED PARTIES

Each shipowner, resident agent, operator, or person registered with ARAP as the vessel's representative shall annually receive an official communication containing the following information:

- Amount payable per vessel.
- Payment deadline.
- Banking details for making the deposit to the ICCAT account.
- Considerations regarding international bank transfer charges and proof of payment.

✓ IMPORTANT

Failure to comply with the payment of the contribution, or payment made after the established deadline, shall be subject to the provisions of Article 6 of Administrative Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 056 of July 30, 2025, until the total outstanding contribution has been fully paid.

For further information regarding this Technical Circular, please contact:

Unit for RFMO Follow-Up – USOROP
Panama Authority for Aquatic Resources
Phone: (+507) 511-6019 / 520-1818
Email: hsfs@arap.gob.pa