

**LAW 204 of March 18, 2021****Which regulates fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and  
dictates other provisions****THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY****DECREES:****Title I****Guiding Principles****Chapter I****Scope of Application**

**Article 1.** This Law shall apply to all aquatic resources throughout the national territory, in inland waters and in marine areas under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama, without prejudice to the powers that other national institutions may exercise.

It shall apply to any natural or legal person, national or foreign, engaged in aquaculture, fishing, related activities or activities related to fishing. In addition, it will apply in marine areas located beyond the jurisdiction of Panama, to all nationals or foreigners on board a Panamanian vessel and to all vessels flying the Panamanian flag that are engaged in fishing, fishing-related activities, or related activities.

In accordance with the provisions of Title XIV of the Political Constitution of the Republic, the waters of the Panama Canal are excluded from the scope of application of this Law.

**Article 2.** The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama, hereinafter the Authority, constitutes the governing body of the State to manage and ensure compliance with and application of this Law, its regulations on aquaculture, fisheries, related activities, and fishing-related activities.

**Article 3.** The aquatic resources found in the continental waters and in the marine areas under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama form part of the national heritage of the State.

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**Article 4.** The Authority is responsible for the development, updating, and implementation of the National Fishing and Aquaculture Policy, in coordination with all entities linked to fishing, aquaculture, related activities, and fishing-related activities.

**Article 5.** The Authority is empowered to regulate fishing, aquaculture, related activities, and fishing-related activities throughout the national territory, in inland waters, and in marine areas under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama.

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**Article 3.** The aquatic resources found in the continental waters and in the marine areas under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama form part of the national heritage of the State.

**Chapter II****General Provisions**

**Article 4.** The Authority is responsible for the development, updating, and implementation of the National Fishing and Aquaculture Policy, in coordination with all entities linked to fishing, aquaculture, related activities, and fishing-related activities.

**Article 5.** The Authority is empowered to regulate fishing, aquaculture, related activities, and fishing-related activities throughout the national territory, in inland waters, and in marine areas under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama.

Likewise, it is empowered to regulate fishing and fishing-related activities carried out by Panamanian nationals or Panamanian-flagged vessels operating beyond the marine areas under the jurisdiction of Panama.

**Article 6.** The Authority shall have, within its powers, the authority to authorize the activity of fishing organizations that carry out activities for the sustainable use of aquatic resources. It shall also authorize the activity of groups of aquaculture farmers dedicated to activities aimed at the production of aquaculture resources.