

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA ADM/ARAP
RESOLUTION No. 055
(July 29, 2025)

"Implementing the use of the e-POB electronic system as the official platform for requesting human observers for the National On-Board Observer Program, applicable to vessels licensed for commercial fishing for international capture services and fishing-related activities, under the Panamanian flag, that carry out transshipments both in port and on the open seas"

THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR, exercising his legal powers,

CONSIDERING:

That Law 44 of November 23, 2006, creates the Panama Aquatic Resources Authority, hereinafter the Authority, as the governing entity of the State to ensure compliance with and application of national fishing and aquaculture laws and policies;

That sections 2 and 7 of Article 38 of Law 44 of 2006 provide that the Authority, through the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control, has among its functions the establishment of the bases and parameters that the technical standards for the development of fishing activities must follow, as well as the supervision, verification, and certification of the updating and compliance with said standards; and to ensure, in coordination with the corresponding entities, strict compliance with the legal and regulatory provisions that regulate the protection and use of aquatic resources,

That Law 204 of March 18, 2021, hereinafter the Law, regulates fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and establishes other provisions;

That Article 31 of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, establishes that the Authority shall adopt all necessary conservation, management, and oversight measures to prevent, combat, discourage, and eliminate unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing, and may regulate those measures not expressly contemplated in the Law, in accordance with international agreements, conventions, and treaties;

That Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023, regulates Law 204 of March 18, 2021;

That Chapter V of Title VII of Executive Decree No. 13 of 2023 establishes the provisions relating to the development of transshipment operations in ports and on the high seas by Panamanian-flagged vessels engaged in international service, specifying the procedures prior to, during, and after transshipment, which must be compulsorily carried out;

That ADM/ARAP Resolution No. 092 of November 18, 2024, establishes the requirements for transshipments for Panamanian-flagged commercial fishing vessels operating international catch and fishing-related services;

That Article Fourth of said resolution establishes that, as of January 15, 2025, all vessels licensed to operate commercial fishing vessels operating international catch and fishing-related services, flying the Panamanian flag, must have an observer on board who belongs to one of the observer programs recognized by this Authority throughout the entire operation; otherwise, the transshipment will not be authorized.

That the Authority, aware of the flag State's responsibility to implement the necessary measures to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, as well as the port State's role in preventing, deterring, and eliminating these illegal activities,


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considers it appropriate to establish mechanisms that generate greater control and management of the activities under the Authority's jurisdiction:

RESOLVES:

FIRST: The mandatory use of the **e-POB** electronic system, administered by the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control of the Authority, is hereby implemented as the exclusive platform for the request of human observers for the National On-Board Observer Program, applicable to vessels licensed for commercial fishing for international capture services and for fishing-related activities, under the Panamanian flag, through the official website: <https://moa.arap.gob.pa>. The request must be made at least **fifteen (15) days** in advance of the scheduled date of the transshipment activity.

SECOND: For vessels licensed for commercial fishing for international capture services and for fishing-related activities, it will be the responsibility of the Master, Operator or Owner of the vessel to make the request for the human observer exclusively through the **e-POB** system.

THIRD: For the Authority to validate, approve, and assign a human observer, the Captain, Operator, and/or Shipowner must correctly complete all required fields in the **e-POB** system. In the event of changes to the embarkation date or location, the corresponding update must be made through the system. Incomplete requests will not be processed or generate an assignment.

FOURTH: No transshipment will be authorized without the prior assignment of a human observer through the **e-POB** system, except in those cases exempted as established in Articles FOURTH and SEVENTH of ADM/ARAP Resolution No. 092 of November 18, 2024.

FIFTH: The document entitled "**User Manual of the On-Board Observer Company Program**" (**Annex A and Annex B**) is attached to this resolution and forms an integral part thereof.

SIXTH: The **e-POB** system will be enabled for user registration, verification, and validation starting July 29, 2025. Its official use will begin at 00:00 UTC on August 16, 2025.

Paragraph: All inquiries regarding the use of the system should be directed to the following email addresses: **observerspan@arap.gob.pa**, vigilancia@arap.gob.pa, transshipment@arap.gob.pa

SEVENTH: Failure to comply with the provisions established in this resolution, including misuse, omissions, falsification, or failure to update the platform, constitutes a serious administrative infraction and will be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of Law 204 of 2021 and its regulations.

EIGHTH: This resolution will take effect upon its promulgation.

LEGAL BASIS:

Law 44 of November 23, 2006

Law 204 of March 18, 2021

Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023

PUBLISH AND COMPLY

EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA D.

General Administrator


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