

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA  
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA

RESOLUTION ADM/ARAP No. 077  
(October 21, 2025)

"Whereby the National Fisheries Control and Inspection Plan of the Republic of Panama 2025-2029 is established, which replaces and repeals Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 002 of January 7, 2020, which approved the "National Risk-Based Control and Inspection Plan of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama"

THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL,  
in exercise of his legal powers,

CONSIDERING:

That by Law 44 of November 23, 2006, the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama, hereinafter "the Authority," is created as the governing entity of the State responsible for ensuring compliance with and application of the 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 to establish 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, also ensuring, in coordination with the corresponding entities, strict compliance with the legal and regulatory provisions that regulate the protection and use of aquatic resources.

That Article 31 of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, establishes that the Authority will adopt all necessary conservation, management, and oversight measures to prevent, combat, discourage, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and may regulate measures not expressly contemplated in the Law, in accordance with agreements and conventions and international treaties.

That Article 32 of Law 204 of 2021 provides that the Authority shall regulate transshipment activities carried out by Panamanian-flagged vessels beyond waters under national jurisdiction.

That Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023, regulates Law 204 of 2021, which orders fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and establishes other provisions.

That Article 129 of Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023, establishes that, within the framework of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the fight against IUU fishing, the Authority shall prioritize preventing, deterring, and eliminating such practice and shall develop instruments to guide the implementation of the Policy provided for in Article 2 of these regulations. To this end, it must consider at least one National Action Plan to prevent, deter, and eliminate such fishing. IUU and a National Control and Inspection Plan.

This Plan constitutes a strategic instrument for strengthening national fisheries management by allowing for the implementation of systematic, transparent, and risk-based control measures that guarantee compliance with applicable national and international standards.

That it is the responsibility of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama to formally adopt the National Fisheries Control and Inspection Plan, in compliance with its legal mandate and in accordance with Panama's international commitments to combat IUU fishing.

RESOLVES:

**FIRST:** To officially adopt the "National Fisheries Control and Inspection Plan of the Republic of Panama 2025-2029" as the guiding instrument of the Panama Aquatic Resources Authority for the planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of control, inspection, and surveillance actions for fishing activities and activities connected and related to fishing. These actions include the stages of capture, landing, transportation, storage, processing, marketing, export, and import

  
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of fishery products, as well as operations in national ports and landings abroad, where applicable. This adoption replaces and repeals Resolution ADM/ARAP No. 002 of January 7, 2020, which approved the "National Risk-Based Control and Inspection Plan of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama."

**SECOND:** The Plan will be mandatory for all National, Regional, and Departmental Directorates of ARAP and will apply to the Panamanian-flagged fleet (national and international service) and to the actors in the chain subject to control in accordance with current regulations.

**THIRD:** The Panel of Experts provided for in the Plan, attached to the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control (DGIVC), is institutionalized. Its functions include: (i) maintaining and updating the fisheries and activities prioritization matrix (PAE/PAL/PAD); (ii) validating risk-based methodological adjustments; and (iii) recommending oversight goals and indicators by program. The DGIVC will issue the internal act establishing its composition, and session regime.

**FOURTH:** Within a maximum period of thirty (30) business days from the effective date of this resolution, the DGIVC, in coordination with the competent Directorates, will approve the Annual Operational Program of the Plan (POA), with goals, indicators, and differentiated responsibilities for PAE/PAL/PAD and for each oversight tool [inspections at sea, port, or plants, road control, VMS (Vessel Monitoring System), cameras, and electronic traceability].

**FIFTH:** The Directorate of Fisheries Informatics and Statistics will enable and manage a single database of the Plan, integrating standardized records of field and office inspections, VMS, electronic traceability, and other sources, guaranteeing interoperability and controlled access for oversight and monitoring purposes. The DGIVC will define the standardized data capture formats and their mandatory use.

**SIXTH:** The responsible Directorates will submit quarterly progress reports to the DGIVC (goals met, findings, and corrective measures). The DGIVC will prepare an Annual Plan Execution Report, with an evaluation of KPIs, deviations, and recommended adjustments for the next cycle, which will be submitted to the General Administrator for approval.

**SEVENTH:** The ARAP, through the DGIVC, will coordinate the execution of the Plan with the competent entities (among others, the Panama Maritime Authority, the National Customs Authority, and the corresponding health or port authorities), and may establish technical committees and operational protocols for the exchange of information and the implementation of joint actions.

**EIGHTH:** The Plan may be adjusted annually by ARAP resolution, at the proposal of the DGIVC and with a report from the Panel of Experts, in order to reflect changes in the criticality of fisheries or activities, the availability of resources, and the evidence obtained from monitoring.

**NINTH:** The National Fisheries Control and Inspection Plan of the Republic of Panama will enter into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette, and its implementation will extend from 2025 to 2029, in accordance with the provisions established in this resolution.

**TENTH:** Failure to comply with the provisions of this resolution will be sanctioned in accordance with Law 204 of March 18, 2021, and its regulations.

**LEGAL BASIS:** Law 44 of November 23, 2006, Law 204 of March 18, 2021, and Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023.

**PUBLISH AND COMPLY.**

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Administrator General



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