

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA

RESOLUTION ADM/ARAP No. 067
(September 15, 2025)

· "Establishing measures to authorize entry into Panamanian ports for foreign-flagged fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities, and dictates other provisions".

THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL,
exercising his legal powers,

CONSIDERING:

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

That paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 4 of Law 44 of 2006 establish that the Authority's functions include regulating, promoting, and implementing technical and administrative measures and processes for the rational, sustainable, and responsible use of aquatic resources, in order to protect the national heritage and assist in environmental protection, as well as complying with international agreements and conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama in matters within its jurisdiction.

That paragraphs 1 and 15 of Article 21 of Law 44 of 2006 establish among the functions of the General Administrator: to exercise the administration of the Authority and adopt all measures deemed appropriate for the organization and operation of the fishing and aquaculture sector.

That the Authority, in the exercise of its functions, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the management measures established by the Regional and Subregional Fisheries Management Organizations, particularly regarding vessels engaged in fishing activities at sea.

That by ARAP Resolution No. 003 of November 18, 2009, the Republic of Panama adopted the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in order to comply with the adoption of clear fisheries management measures and conservation, surveillance, and control alternatives, consistent with the fisheries management principles contained in said Code.

That by Law 43 of September 14, 2016, Panama approved the Agreement on Port State Measures, hereinafter the Agreement, aimed at Preventing, Deterring, and Eliminating IUU Fishing, concluded in Rome on November 22, 2009.

That Article 7, paragraph 1, of Law 43 of 2016 provides that each Party shall designate and make known the ports at which vessels may request entry under the Agreement, and shall submit the list of designated ports to the FAO, which shall give it due publicity.

That Article 31 of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, "Regulating fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and issuing other provisions," establishes that the Authority will adopt all necessary conservation, management, and oversight measures to prevent, combat, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and may regulate those measures not expressly contemplated in this Law, in accordance with international agreements, conventions, and treaties. Fishing licenses will not be granted to vessels on the IUU list of any regional fisheries management organization.

That this Authority deems it appropriate to establish mechanisms for authorizing port entry and use, and to issue provisions for greater control and compliance with the provisions established in the Agreement on Port State Measures, aimed at Preventing, Deterring, and Eliminating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; consequently,

RESOLVES:


Klenya Morales
Traductor Público Autorizado
Inglés-Español Español-Inglés
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FIRST: All foreign-flagged vessels engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities shall require prior entry authorization issued by the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control of the Authority to dock, anchor, provide and/or receive services, and/or carry out operations in ports designated for foreign vessels in the Republic of Panama.

Likewise, in the waters under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama, the aforementioned vessels may only provide or receive services and/or carry out operations other than transit or innocent passage if they have received the authorization indicated in the preceding paragraph.

SECOND: To request the authorization referred to in the previous article, the owner of any foreign-flagged fishing vessel or vessel engaged in fishing-related activities must submit a request for authorization to the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control of the Authority, using the form called "Port Entry Authorization Request," which is found in the Annex to this resolution and forms an integral part thereof, through the email addresses psm@arap.gob.pa and merp@arap.gob.pa, at least 96 hours prior to arrival at port.

In the case of arrivals from ports near the Republic of Panama, the request must be made at least 48 hours prior to arrival at port. In both cases, the aforementioned request must be made through the shipping agency designated for this purpose.

THIRD: When the vessel requests the use of the port to land and/or transship fishery products that have not been previously landed, they must also submit a landing declaration, a transshipment request, and the corresponding transshipment declaration, broken down by species, volume expressed in kilograms, preservation and presentation, as well as documents proving the legal origin of the products.

The quantity landed must be broken down by species and obtained by weighing the unloaded fish on the scales provided in the ports and landing sites for this purpose.

FOURTH: The owner of all foreign-flagged fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities must submit the following documents with the request indicated in Article Three:

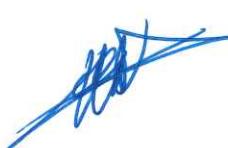
1. Certificate of registration or flag registration of the vessel;
2. Fishing license, authorization, and/or permit issued by the flag State;
3. Fishing license, authorization, and/or permit from the coastal State, if applicable;
4. Departures from ports visited in the last six months, indicating the name and date of each departure;
5. Vessel cargo manifest with stowage plan;
6. Satellite tracking record for the last six months;
7. Other documents required under the regulatory provisions of the RFMO(s) to which the vessel belongs;
8. VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) certificate issued by the service provider, stating the technical specifications of the satellite equipment and indicating that it is transmitting a signal.
9. Any other additional information required by the Authority

FIFTH: The Authority's General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control will analyze the information contained in each application for entry authorization for foreign vessels, its supporting documentation, and any additional information, if requested, to determine whether or not there is evidence that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or activities in support of it.

Based on the aforementioned analysis, the Authority will take one of the following measures, in accordance with Law 43 of 2016 and other national regulations:

1. Authorize the application.
2. Make the authorization of the application conditional on a prior on-board inspection, or
3. Deny the application.

The Authority shall notify the shipowner, Master, fishing master, vessel representative, or shipping agent of the aforementioned measure adopted, forwarding it by the most expeditious means to the Panamanian Maritime Authority and any other competent authority, as well as to the flag State and RFMOs, if applicable.



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SIXTH: The Authority may authorize the entry request of a foreign-flagged vessel, subject to a prior inspection of the vessel, when it deems it appropriate or when it is part of the annual port inspection plan. In these cases, the vessel must remain or proceed to where the Authority indicates in order to proceed with the inspection.

Inspections will be carried out in accordance with Part 4 of Law 43 of 2016. Once the inspection has been carried out, the Authority may authorize the entry request if no evidence is found that the vessel has engaged in or been involved in IUU fishing or in activities in support thereof.

SEVENTH: The Authority may authorize transshipments in ports under its jurisdiction to foreign-flagged fishing vessels or vessels engaged in fishing-related activities, provided that they comply with the following requirements:

1. The transshipment operation may only be carried out in authorized ports or sites and under the presence of an Aquatic Resources Inspector for the control of said operation;
2. The donor vessel must have the relevant authorizations, permits and/or licenses from the Authority or the flag State, as appropriate, including authorization for the transshipment event; be registered with the competent RFMO in whose area the product to be transshipped was caught; be registered in the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels; have a VMS installed and operational; have an IMO number if eligible for it; be under an observer program; and have complied with the requirements established by the Authority in the respective applications;
3. The receiving vessel must be registered in the FAO Global Record and with the competent RFMO in whose area the product to be transshipped was caught; to be transshipped, have a VMS installed and operational, have an IMO number if eligible, have an on-board observation system, and be duly authorized by the Authority or the flag State to carry out transshipments, as well as having met the requirements established by the Authority in the respective applications;
4. In the event that the RFMO does not contemplate a vessel register for transshipments, the receiving vessel must provide information relating to data such as name, registration number, vessel number assigned by the International Maritime Organization or IMO, and flag, which identify the vessel, as well as the port of final destination and any other information established by the Authority.

EIGHTH: In the event that a foreign-flagged vessel is granted entry authorization, the owner, master, fishing master, vessel representative, or shipping agent must present said authorization to the competent authorities, if requested.

NINTH: In cases where evidence is found that the vessel has engaged in or been involved in IUU fishing or in activities in support of such fishing, the Authority shall implement the necessary measures to ensure that the vessel does not continue engaging in IUU fishing activities and shall initiate the corresponding administrative procedure, notifying the Panamanian Maritime Authority so that it may prohibit the vessel from sailing, and other competent authorities so that they may proceed in accordance with their responsibilities.

The results of the inspection shall be communicated to the Panamanian Maritime Authority and other competent authorities, as well as to the flag State of the inspected vessel and, as appropriate, to the Parties and other relevant States, including States for which the inspection reveals evidence that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing activities or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing within waters under their national jurisdiction; the States of the nationality of the captain or master of the vessel; the relevant RFMOs; the FAO and other relevant international organizations.

TENTH: If, after authorization, it is detected that the vessel is involved in IUU fishing or activities in support thereof, the Authority will initiate the administrative sanctioning process, coordinate with the competent Authority to prohibit the vessel from sailing, order the suspension of all landing, transshipment, packaging and processing services of fish, and coordinate with the competent authority the suspension of other port services, including, among others, refueling, resupply, maintenance and entry into dry dock.



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ELEVENTH: Foreign-flagged fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities shall be required to enter only the following designated ports in the Republic of Panama:

UNLOCODE	Port	Coordinates
VAC	Pu Vacamonte	0852N 07940W
BLB	Port of Balboa	0857N 07933W
PTP	Petroterminal Panamá	0812N 08252W
ROD	Panamá Internacional Terminal, (PSA) - Rodman	0857N 07934W
ROD	Puerto Petroamérica Terminal (PATSA) - Rodman	0857N 07934W
CBT	Port of Cristóbal	0921N 07954W
MEL	Port of Isla Melones – Melones Oil Terminal	0848N 07936W
TBG	Port of Isla Taboguilla (DECAL)	0848N 07930W

TWELFTH: All fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities flying a foreign flag that are about to enter one of the ports established in this resolution, having been previously authorized by the Authority, must notify their arrival within a period of no less than twenty-four (24) hours, via the email addresses psm@arap.gob.pa and merp@arap.gob.pa, through the nominated Shipping Agency.

THIRTEENTH: The Authority shall deny the request indicated in the preceding articles:

1. When it has evidence that a vessel has engaged in or been involved in IUU fishing or related activities;
2. When the vessel appears on an IUU fishing list held by RFMOs and other regional fisheries bodies;
3. When it fails to submit the required documentation within the period established in Article 2;
4. When it does not receive a timely response from the flag State or coastal State, following a request for additional information made by the Authority to corroborate the legality of the vessel's catches, permits, and authorizations;

FOURTEENTH: In the event of a denial of port entry, the Authority shall communicate this decision to the nominated Shipping Agency, the Panama Maritime Authority, the Panama Canal Authority, the National Aeronaval Service, and the Ministry of Health, as well as to the competent authority of the vessel's flag State and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, to the interested coastal States, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and other relevant international organizations.

FIFTEENTH: In accordance with the provisions of International Law, vessels are exempt from being denied port entry in cases of force majeure or serious difficulty, solely and exclusively for the purpose of providing assistance to persons, vessels, or aircraft in danger or serious difficulty, without this being construed as authorization by the Authority.

SIXTEENTH: Before leaving port, foreign-flagged fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities must process their fishing departure permit with this Authority through the mechanism enabled on the institutional website, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance, and Control.



Klenya Morales
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For the purposes of this procedure, the following documentation must be submitted:

1. Copy of the crew list,
2. Copy of the navigation patent,
3. Copy of the departure permit issued by the Panama Maritime Authority,
4. Cargo manifest, if applicable,
5. Proof of active signal transmission through the Satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS),
6. Proof of payment for the fishing departure permit processed with this Authority.

The departure permit will be valid for thirty (30) calendar days from its issuance.

The provisions of this article shall enter into force sixty (60) business days after the effective date of this resolution.

SEVENTEENTH: Nominated Shipping Agencies that provide services to foreign-flagged fishing vessels and vessels engaged in fishing-related activities shall be responsible for managing and ensuring compliance with the provisions established in this resolution. These agencies must complete the procedures and submit the corresponding documentation on behalf of the vessel to the Authority, guaranteeing the accuracy and compliance of the presented information. Failure to comply with this obligation will be considered a serious offense and may be sanctioned in accordance with current regulations.

EIGHTEENTH: Failure to comply with the provisions of this resolution will be sanctioned as a serious offense, in accordance with current regulations.

NINETEENTH: This resolution repeals ADM/ARAP Resolution No. 055 of August 27, 2024.

TWENTIETH: This resolution shall enter into force upon its promulgation.

LEGAL BASIS: Law 44 of November 23, 2006, Law 43 of September 14, 2016, Law 204 of March 18, 2021, and Executive Decree No. 13 of November 1, 2023.

COMMUNICATE AND COMPLY.

EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA D.
Administrator General



Klenya Morales
Traductor Público Autorizado
Inglés-Español Espanol-Inglés
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