
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR USOROP N° 2026-001

TO: Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents of Panamanian-flagged vessels authorized to fish tropical tunas under ICCAT

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

SUBJECT: Compliance with Recommendation 24-01 on the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas – ICCAT.

DATE: January 5, 2026

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) hereby informs vessel owners that, in accordance with the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Panama before the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), ICCAT Recommendation 24-01 is currently fully in force, having been adopted at the national level through the applicable Administrative Resolutions ADM/ARAP No. 044 of 9 June 2025 and ADM/ARAP No. 072 of 19 September 2025.

In this regard, said resolutions are mandatory for all Panamanian-flagged vessels authorized to catch bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) within the ICCAT Convention Area during the 2026 and 2027 fishing years.

The fleet is hereby reminded that, among others, the following obligations must be strictly observed:

1. Catch Reporting: monthly and quarterly reporting of catches by species, expressed in kilograms, using the established reporting forms (CP50).
2. Vessel Registration and Authorization: only vessels with an LOA ≥ 20 m that are included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and duly authorized may fish, retain, tranship, land or provide support to activities related to bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tuna.
3. On-board Observers:
 - 100% observer coverage for purse seine vessels.
 - A minimum of 10% observer coverage for large longline vessels, where applicable.
4. FAD Management:
 - Strict compliance with the FAD closure period from 17 March to 30 April, throughout the ICCAT Convention Area.

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- Compliance with the maximum number of FADs equipped with operational buoys per vessel (288 FADs per vessel) for the years 2026 and 2027.
- Exclusive use of non-entangling FADs, in accordance with the technical guidelines established by ICCAT (Annex 5 of Recommendation 24-01). As from 1 January 2026, Panama, in its capacity as a CPC, shall authorize only the use of FADs falling under Categories I and II, as defined in said Annex.
- Mandatory submission of the FAD logbook and all associated information related to FAD deployment, visits, loss or recovery.

1. Allocation and Management of Catch Limits:
 - Catches shall strictly comply with the vessel catch limits established through Administrative Resolution, as well as with duly authorized internal transfers, where applicable.

ARAP warns that failure to comply with the provisions set forth herein, as well as with the applicable national and international regulations, may result in the adoption of administrative, enforcement and control measures, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Finally, shipowners and resident agents are urged to maintain continuous coordination with this Authority in order to ensure proper monitoring of catches, responsible use of FADs, and full compliance with the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Panama.

For further information regarding this Technical Circular, please contact:

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