
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

USOROP N° 2026-003

TO: Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents of Panamanian-flagged purse seine vessels registered with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

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

SUBJECT: One-Time Contribution of Panamanian Purse Seine Vessels Authorized in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register for the Financing of the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) – Year 2026.

DATE: January 30, 2026.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) hereby informs the owners, shipowners, operators, and legal representatives of vessels flying the Panamanian flag that, in accordance with paragraph 41 of Resolution C-25-01, adopted during the 103rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) held in September 2025, the financing of the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) is established through mandatory one-time contributions to be paid by all purse seine vessels listed as active in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR).

The total funding required for the RTTP amounts to USD 1,800,000.00, which will be distributed proportionally based on each vessel's well capacity.

Amount of the One-Time Contribution for Panamanian Purse Seine Vessels.

The one-time contribution for calendar year 2026 will be USD 6.16 per cubic meter (m³) of well capacity. For Panamanian-flag purse seine vessels, the total estimated amount is USD 204,068.00.

Payment Deadlines

- Purse seine vessels currently listed in the IATTC RVR must complete payment no later than June 30, 2026.
- Vessels entering the RVR after January 15, 2026 must complete payment prior to their inclusion in the Register.

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Payment Method

Payment shall be made via bank transfer in United States dollars (USD). The banking instructions will be provided directly to each vessel through an official written communication issued by ARAP. Vessel owners and operators are responsible for ensuring timely compliance upon receipt of such notification.

The transaction must clearly indicate the name and flag of the vessel to which the payment corresponds.

✓ IMPORTANT

Failure to pay the required contribution, as well as late payment, will be considered an infringement and may result in the application of sanctions established under the applicable legislation, in accordance with Law No. 204 of March 18, 2021.

For further information regarding this Technical Circular, please contact:

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Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá