



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY  
(AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ)  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE  
(DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE)  
DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE  
(DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO)**

F-265  
(DCCM)  
V.00



**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-270**

**To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

**Subject:** Fishing Vessels and Ships engaged in the activities of support to the operations of capturing fishing resources.

**Reference:** Resolution A.1117(30) adopted on 6 December 2017.

1- The purpose of this Circular is to inform users that Reefers willing to provide assistance to fishing, must process their Fishing license with the Authority of Aquatic Resources of Panama (ARAP).

2- The aforementioned is in compliance with the Executive Decree No. 49 of October 19, 2009, whose First Article establishes that vessels of International service registered or seeking to be registered under the Panamanian Merchant Marine engaged in fishing, capturing, transferring and transport of aquatic resources, as well as those engaged in activities of support to the operations of capturing these resources, must have an International Fishing license.

3- Reefers that are not engaged in activities of support to the operations of capturing or carrying fishing resources shall submit at the time of renewal of their Regulation certificate, a declaration of the product transported by them.

4- With the aforementioned Declaration of Products, we are aiming at improving the control maintained with our Reefers, as well as to guarantee that they are in compliance with the regulations related to fishing matters.

5- For your reference we have included [Executive Decree No. 160 of June 6, 2013](#), [Executive Decree No. 161 of June 6, 2013](#) and [Executive Decree No. 162 of June 6, 2013](#).

6- Up to date, a great number of Regional Fishing Organizations are foreseeing to require an "IMO number" to all ships that belong and are registered in their Organizations.

Through Resolution A.1117(30) IMO ship identification number scheme, adopted on 6 December 2017 which revokes Resolution A.1078(28), indicates the following:

"RECOGNIZING the need for the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to be revised to allow its application to ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, including fishing vessels of steel and non-steel hull construction; passenger ships of less than 100 gross tonnage, high-speed passenger craft and mobile offshore drilling units covered by SOLAS regulation V/19-1; and all motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage down to a size limit of 12 meters in length overall (LOA), authorized to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State."

This Administrations focused on supporting duties conducted by the Regional Fishing Organizations and with the objective to improve the Maritime Safety, as well as facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud, recommends that all ships of

international fishing service, request an identification IMO number, based on the standards established by the International Maritime Organization.

In order to obtain an “IMO number”, for both new and existing vessels, please visit the website [www.imonumbers.ihs.com](http://www.imonumbers.ihs.com) or send your request to the E-mail [ship.imo@ihs.com](mailto:ship.imo@ihs.com).

**August, 2018** – *Change in the Reference section concerning to the Resolution A.1117(30) adopted on 6 December 2017, which revokes Resolution A.1078(28) and change in paragraph 6.*

**September, 2014**– *New point 6 included and changes in reference and subject*

**August, 2013**– *New point 5 included (hyperlinks)*

**April, 2013**– *New changes in paragraph 3 (elimination of its first paragraph)*

**April, 2013**– *Change in paragraph 3*

**March, 2013**

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