



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-210

To: Owners, Operators, Masters of Panama flag vessels, Consular Offices, Law Firms and Attorneys-at-Law or Legal Representatives, Classification Societies and other Recognized Organizations, as well as any other interested natural person or corporate bodies

Subject: Review of Executive Decree No. 49 of 19 October 2009

References: Executive Decree No. 49 of 19 October 2009
Executive Decree No. 96 of 12 November 2009
Executive Decree No. 98-A of 17 November 2009
ARAP Resolution No. 002 of 17 November 2009
ARAP Resolution No. 003 of 18 November 2009

The **PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**, in its capacity as administrator of the Panama flag registry, and

The **AUTHORITY OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCES OF PANAMA**, in its capacity as the State's governing entity in charge of securing compliance with and enforcement of the laws and regulations on aquatic resources and the national policies on fishing.

HEREBY INFORM THAT:

In consideration to Regulation 1005/200 of the European Commission and the Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

1. They have started a process of review of Executive Decree No. 49 of 19 October 2009 related to licenses for international service ships dedicated to fishing related activities.

The review actions coordinated between the institutions have the following fundamental purposes:

- a) Inclusion of a definition of *fishing support vessel* and *fishing related activities*;
- b) Clarify that transshipment at high seas is not forbidden but regulated;

- c) Reduce the annual cost of licenses for vessels dedicated to transportation and/or transshipment of aquatic resources and fishing support vessels;
 - d) Comply with the commitments acquired by the Republic of Panama to prevent, discourage and eliminate the IUU fishing.
2. The Panama Maritime Authority and the Authority of the Aquatic Resources of Panama will issue a new explanatory note with the regulations applicable to the matter currently dealt by Executive Decree No. 49 of 19 October 2009.
3. The measures already taken by the Republic of Panama as part of its policy to ensure compliance of its commitment to prevent, discourage and eradicate the IUU fishing include:
- (a) Establishment of an Inter-institutional Commission with the purpose to prevent, discourage and eliminate the illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing of vessels dedicated to the capture, transportation and transshipment of aquatic resources, as well as the support vessels, as an advisory and consulting entity specialized in all matters related to the policies and measures on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of the vessels registered in the Merchant Marine of the Republic of Panama.
 - (b) Adoption of the Code of Conduct for the Responsible Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its appendixes as well as the FAO International Action Plan to prevent, discourage and eliminate the IUU fishing.
 - (c) Validation of the Certificates of Capture of Aquatic Resources transported to and unloaded in the territory of the European Union since January 1st 2010 coming from Panamanian fishing vessels; and,
 - (d) Approval of the National Action Plan of the Republic of Panama to prevent, discourage and eliminate the Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

March, 2010

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:
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