
13TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

Panama City, Panama 24-27 February 2026

CTC 13 – Doc 11

Follow-up Actions Taken in Relation to the 2025 Final Compliance Report (and other Member/CNCP commitments)

Secretariat

1. Summary and recommendations

This document summarises compliance actions taken by Members/CNCPs in response to the Final Compliance Report of the last CTC meeting. At CTC12 the overall compliance for reporting period 2023/24 was assessed. The Final Compliance Report reflects a Member/CNCP assessment against CMMs as “compliant” for two situations, “no consensus” for one situation, and for 24 situations, assigned “non-compliant, no further action”. There were also 3 situations where a status of “non-compliant, further action” was assigned. Additionally, there was one additional commitment related to monitoring/compliance agreed during the meetings to improve the operational implementation of the CMM06 (VMS). The commitments were fulfilled in all 4 situations.

CTC13 is invited to:

- ***Note** the current status of commitments made last year and make any comments or recommendations it deems appropriate.*

2. Follow-up Actions

Table 1 summarises the specific further/follow-up actions required in relation to the 2025 Final Compliance Report (Annex 6a of the COMM13-Report) with the status in respect to the commitment of follow up action noted.

Table 2 summarises the follow-up actions required in relation to other commitments made by Members and CNCPs with respect to the CMMs and monitoring/compliance.

Member investigations and/or follow-up reporting to the Commission for the reporting period was in relation to the following CMMs:

- CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels)
- CMM 06-2023 (VMS)
- CMM 11-2023 (Boarding and Inspection)



Table 1: Status of Follow Up Actions identified in the 2025 Final Compliance Report.

Member/ CNCP	Compliance Action plan for:	Compliance Issue	2023/24 Compliance Status	Current Status
Panama	CMM 05-2023 (Record of Vessels)	Vessel Registry: Uncertainty regarding the vessel's registry stemming from discrepancies noted between written information available and observations made during the HSBI regarding the flag of the <i>SHUN ZE LENG 7</i>. Panama's response (Note: AG-2051-2024) included the statements: <i>"Regarding the observation that the vessel was not flying the Panamanian flag, we have initiated an investigation to determine responsibilities and apply the corresponding sanctions in accordance with CMM 05-2023."</i> and <i>"Panama is committed to providing the results of this investigation once concluded"</i> CTC: Panama committed to providing the results of this investigation once concluded.	Non-Compliant, Further Action (Provide the Results of the Investigation)	<u>Commitment fulfilled:</u> Official Note AG-773-2025 (dated 18 June 2025) - Panama provided a formal update and the investigative results and sanctions pertaining to all 3 matters regarding the <i>SHUNZE LENG 7</i> case. This information was circulated to Members and CNCPs by the Secretariat on 24 June 2025 as correspondence G65-2025 (Annex 1).
Panama	CMM 06-2023 (VMS)	VMS gaps/delays/manual reporting: Gaps in vessel tracks and delays in data transmission from the FMC to SPRFMO were noted as well as improper manual reporting processes. Particularly in regard to the <i>SHUN ZE LENG</i> case. CTC: Following discussions, additional information, clarifications, commitments	Non-Compliant, Further Action (1. Provide outcome and updates on the Investigation into vessel. 2. Investigate/take action re: transmission delays from FMC)	<u>Commitment fulfilled:</u>



Member/ CNC	Compliance Action plan for:	Compliance Issue	2023/24 Compliance Status	Current Status
		provided by Panama regarding the VMS issues for the SHUN ZE LENG 7 non-compliant - further action agreed. Further action includes providing outcome and updates on the investigation, including any sanctions applied, directing vessels to report hourly manual positions every 4 hours, investigate why positions received at FMC were not immediately transmitted to Commission VMS and take measures to avoid future issues.		1) Official Note AG-773-2025 (dated 18 June 2025) - Panama provided a formal update and the investigative results and sanctions pertaining to all 3 matters regarding the <i>SHUNZE LENG 7</i> case. This information was circulated to Members and CNCs by the Secretariat on 24 June 2025 as correspondence G65-2025 (Annex 1). 2) Panama's response included information from their VMS service provider pertaining to the VMS transmission issues between their FMC and the SPRFMO FMC. The issue was identified and resolved by switching from FTP data transfer to an alternate (HTTPS) method of data transfer.
Panama	CMM 11-2023 (Boarding and Inspection)	USCG Inspectors identified a serious violation during the at-sea inspection of the SHUN ZE LENG 7. Issues were documented in the boarding and Inspection report during and sent to Panama for follow-up. Panama's response (Note: AG-2051-2024) included the statement: <i>"We acknowledge that the fishing license should have been on board during the inspection. Given this oversight, we have initiated an investigation to determine the appropriate sanctions for non-compliance with CMM11-2023 Paragraph 32 (a)."</i> CTC: Panama to provide CTC with the results of the investigation.	Non-Compliant, Further Action (Provide the Results of the Investigation)	<u>Commitment fulfilled:</u> Official Note AG-773-2025 (dated 18 June 2025) - Panama provided a formal update and the investigative results and sanctions pertaining to all 3 matters regarding the <i>SHUNZE LENG 7</i> case. This information was circulated to Members and CNCs by the Secretariat on 24 June 2025 as correspondence G65-2025 (Annex 1).



Table 2: Status of Follow Up Actions pertaining to other CMM monitoring/compliance related commitments.

Member/ CNC	Compliance issue in relation to	Compliance Issue	Commitment or Follow-up	Current Status
Various Members/ CNCs (with vessels operating in SPRFMO and sending NAF messages)	CMM 06-2023 (VMS)	Section 6 of the CTC12 VMS Implementation Report (CTC12-Doc07) outlined a few situations that arose related the inaccurate matching of NAF messages with the vessel profile resulting in inaccurate information displaying. The Service Provider advised that these situations would likely be avoided if NAF messages included the IMO number within the IM field code. A secondary issue related to identifying the FMC sending the NAF message using the FR field code to better facilitate follow up when required.	<u>CTC12 Report, Paragraph 20:</u> The CTC agreed that future NAF messages also include the IMO number in the IM data field (in addition to existing NA, RC, and other identifiers used) as most of the vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area now have IMO numbers. The CTC also agreed that all NAF messages clearly identify the disseminating FMC using the “from” (FR) data field.	<u>Commitment fulfilled:</u> Commencing late June, the Secretariat completed spot checks of NAF messages from fishing vessels in the Convention Area with IMO numbers to determine usage of the IM and FR code fields. Following which, relevant Members and CNCs were contacted individually with information specific to their vessel’s NAF messages and the planned transition. All changes and updates appear to have progressed smoothly and a recheck of vessels in September did not identify any issues. <i>(Note: Members/CNCs without vessels in SPRFMO during this time will need to ensure that the NAF messages for their vessels are updated before returning to SPRFMO).</i>

Attachments:

ANNEX 1: Documents supporting Panama’s Response

- SHUN ZE LENG 7 Investigation Findings - Official Note AG-773-2025
- Panama Technical Circular
- Clarification Note from the VMS Service Provider

Ref: G65-2025
Wellington, 24 June 2025

To: SPRFMO Members and CNCPs

Subject: Transmission of Panama's response regarding the SHUN ZE LENG 7 Case

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached a communication from Panama, which has been provided as a follow-up to requirements from the CTC12 and COMM13 annual meeting and reflected in the Final Compliance Report.

The communication includes:

1. Note AG-773-2025 (original signed, in Spanish, and certified translation into English)
2. Attachment 1 - Technical Circular 058-2023
3. Attachment 2 - Clarification Note from Supplier CLS (original in Spanish and translation into English)

Best regards,

Susana Delgado Suárez
Coordination and Communications Officer

Attachment:

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3. Attachment 2 - Clarification Note from Supplier CLS (original in Spanish and translation into English)

DESPACHO DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN GENERAL

Panamá, 18 de junio de 2025.
AG-773-2025

Señora

REBECA ESPINOZA

Presidente del Comité Técnico y de Cumplimiento (CTC)
Organización Regional de Ordenación Pesquera del Pacífico Sur
SPRFMO

Respetada Señora Espinoza,

La República de Panamá presenta ante el Comité Técnico y de Cumplimiento (CTC) de la Organización Regional de Ordenación Pesquera (SPRFMO), las acciones llevadas a cabo y la sanción impuesta al buque de carga refrigerada **SHUN ZE LENG 7, IMO 9045936**, por los incumplimientos detectados durante el abordaje realizado por la Guardia Costera de los Estados Unidos el 11 de abril de 2024, específicamente en relación con las disposiciones establecidas en las siguientes Medidas de Conservación y Ordenación (CMM):

CMM 05-2023 – Registro de Buques

El buque contaba con la documentación que certifica su bandera panameña. Sin embargo, se identificó que en el momento del abordaje enarbolaba una bandera distinta a su pabellón de registro. Esta conducta fue considerada una infracción grave, al contravenir lo dispuesto sobre la visibilidad y uso correcto del pabellón nacional, y fue calificada como circunstancia agravante al momento de determinar la sanción correspondiente.

CMM 06-2023 – Sistema de Monitoreo de Buques (VMS)

Panamá confirmó con la Secretaría de la Comisión, que todas las posiciones VMS faltantes fueron recibidas en el VMS de la Comisión desde el FMC de Panamá.

En cuanto al señalamiento por un miembro sobre el incumplimiento del reporte manual de datos VMS a la Secretaría de la Comisión, Panamá informa que esta medida fue comunicada a los Propietarios, Operadores y Capitanes de buques de pesca de actividades relacionadas a la pesca que operan en el área de la Convención SPRFMO a través de la Circular Técnica 058-2023 (*Adjunto 1*), sobre el cumplimiento de esta medida, en especial el estricto cumplimiento de enviar posiciones VMS al menos una vez cada hora y los requisitos contemplados en el Anexo 3 de Normas de la SPRFMO sobre la notificación manual en la zona de la Convención de la SPRFMO.

En este sentido, Panamá consideró reforzar el cumplimiento de lo establecido en el numeral 1 del Anexo 3 de la siguiente manera:

1. Para los miembros y los CNCP que notifican a la Comisión VMS mediante la opción (a) del párrafo 9 (es decir, a través de su FMC).

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a. Para el cumplimiento de esta literal (a), el buque deberá cumplir con lo establecido el artículo 142 del Decreto Ejecutivo No. 13 de 1 de noviembre de 2023, que indica lo siguiente:

“ ...

Al momento de detectarse la falta de transmisión y/o falla del VMS instalado a bordo, el capitán y/o el armador deberán informar del hecho a la Autoridad y proporcionar los datos descritos en este artículo cada una hora, como máximo, de forma manual.

”
...

b. El FMC de Panamá conforme a este artículo, actualiza la información recibida cada hora en el VMS de Panamá y re-transmite dicha posiciones cada hora de forma electrónica a través de sus medios habituales para enviar datos de posición VMS al VMS de la Comisión.

c. En caso de dificultades técnicas para actualizar electrónicamente los datos de posición del VMS al VMS de la Comisión, el FMC de Panamá informará a la Secretaría del problema y enviará los datos del VMS a la Secretaría como archivo adjunto en formato Excel o CSV para su importación manual a la base de datos del VMS.

En atención a los cuestionamientos, sobre el desfase en la transmisión de posiciones VMS desde el FMC de Panamá al VMS de la Comisión, del buque de bandera panameña **SHUN ZE LENG 7**, Panamá desea presentar la nota aclaratoria (adjunto 3) del proveedor satelital CLS e indicar lo siguiente:

El 4 de abril de 2025 se detectó una interrupción en la transmisión de datos VMS del buque. El proveedor satelital CLS, mediante nota aclaratoria (*Adjunto 2*), confirmó que la causa fue una falla técnica en la conexión del sistema FTP entre la plataforma de Panamá y el servidor de VMS de la SPRFMO, agravada por una sobrecarga de datos enviados a procesarse. Este incidente no fue atribuible ni a una falla del buque ni a omisión por parte de Panamá, sino a un problema técnico en la infraestructura de transmisión, el cual fue corregido inmediatamente.

La situación fue resuelta mediante la implementación de un nuevo método de transmisión directa a la Comisión, restableciendo la conexión al VMS de Panamá el 9 de abril y al VMS de la Comisión SPRFMO el 11 de abril de 2025. Este incidente no obedeció a acciones atribuibles al buque ni a negligencia de las autoridades competentes, sino a un error técnico ya corregido.

Conforme al procedimiento establecido, Panamá notificó a la Secretaría y, en caso de fallas futuras, mantiene disponible la alternativa de enviar manualmente los datos de posición en formato Excel o CSV para su incorporación al sistema de la Comisión, tal como lo prevé su protocolo operativo.

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CMM 11-2023 – Abordaje e Inspección (Párrafo 32 a, h, j)

Durante la inspección, el buque no contaba con la documentación reglamentaria a bordo. Esta omisión, junto con otros elementos observados, fue considerada como una falta agravante al momento de determinar la sanción correspondiente.

Panamá concluyó el proceso sancionatorio interno que culminó con la imposición de una multa administrativa de **USD 300,000.00 (Trescientos Mil dólares con 00/100)**, conforme a la Resolución Final DGIVC/RF/PSI/029-2025.

Además de la sanción económica, se adoptaron las siguientes medidas adicionales:

1. Suspensión de la Licencia de Pesca de Servicio Internacional, que habilita al buque a operar en zonas reguladas por OROP.
2. Solicitud a la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá (AMP) para restringir cualquier trámite relacionado con el cambio de propietario o la cancelación del registro del buque.

Estas medidas fueron aplicadas de forma inmediata como parte del enfoque preventivo de Panamá y fueron levantadas únicamente tras el pago efectivo de la multa y la verificación de cumplimiento de las condiciones impuestas.

La República de Panamá reitera su firme compromiso con el cumplimiento de las medidas adoptadas por esta Organización y con el principio de cooperación efectiva en materia de control, vigilancia y sanción. El caso **SHUN ZE LENG 7** fue atendido con celeridad, rigor técnico y conforme al marco legal nacional vigente, garantizando una respuesta proporcional documentada y efectiva.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría el acompañamiento brindado, y nos mantenemos a disposición para cualquier información adicional que el Comité estime necesaria.

Hago propicia la ocasión para reiterar las seguridades de mi estima y consideración

Atentamente,


EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA
Administrador General



EC/YV/MS/mea

cc: James Brown – Secretario Ejecutivo.
Miembros de la Comisión & CNCPs.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Panama, June 18, 2025

AG-773-2025

Ms.

REBECA ESPINOZA

Compliance & Technical Committee Chairperson (CTC)

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation – SPRFMO

Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Dear Ms. Espinoza,

The Republic of Panama presents to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) the actions taken and the sanction imposed on the refrigerated cargo vessel **SHUN ZE LENG 7, IMO 9045936**, for the breaches detected during the boarding carried out by the United States Coast Guard on April 11, 2024, specifically in relation to the provisions established in the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM):

CMM 05-2023 – Vessel Register

The vessel had the documentation that certifies its Panamanian flag. However, it was identified that at the time of the boarding, it was flying a flag different from its registration flag. This conduct was considered a serious infraction, as it contravened the provisions on the visibility and correct use of the national flag, and was classified as an aggravating circumstance when determining the corresponding sanction.

CMM 06-2023 – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Panama confirmed with the Commission Secretariat that all missing VMS positions were received in the Commission's VMS from Panama's FMC.

Regarding the comment by a member about non-compliance with manual reporting of VMS data to the Commission Secretariat, Panama informs that this measure was communicated to the owners, operators, and captains of fishing vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention area through Technical Circular 058-2023 (*Attachment 1*), regarding compliance with this measure, especially the strict compliance with sending VMS positions at least once every hour and the requirements contemplated in Annex 3 of the SPRFMO Standards on manual notification in the SPRFMO Convention area.

In this regard, Panama decided to reinforce compliance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Annex 3 as follows:

1. For Members and CNCPs that report VMS data to the Commission using option (a) of paragraph 9 (i.e., through their FMC):
 - a. To comply with this provision, vessels must adhere to Article 142 of Executive Decree No. 13 of 1 November 2023, which states the following:

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“ ...

When a transmission failure and/or VMS malfunction on board is detected, the captain and/or vessel owner shall notify the Authority and provide the information described in this article manually, at least once every hour.

...”

b. In accordance with this article, Panama's FMC updates the information received hourly in Panama's VMS and re-transmits such positions electronically every hour through the usual channels for transmitting VMS positional data to the Commission's VMS.

c. In case of technical difficulties in electronically updating the VMS positional data to the Commission's VMS, Panama's FMC shall notify the Secretariat of the issue and send the VMS data as an attached Excel or CSV file for manual import into the Commission's VMS database.

Regarding the concerns raised about the delay in the transmission of VMS positions from Panama's FMC to the Commission's VMS for the Panamanian-flagged vessel **SHUN ZE LENG 7**, Panama would like to present the clarifying note (*Attachment 1*) from the satellite service provider CLS and state the following:

On 4 April 2025, a disruption in the transmission of VMS data from the vessel was detected. The satellite service provider CLS, through a clarifying note, confirmed that the cause was a technical failure in the FTP connection between Panama's platform and the SPRFMO VMS server, which was further affected by a high volume of data being processed. This incident was not attributable to a failure by the vessel or any omission by Panama, but rather a technical issue in the transmission infrastructure, which was immediately corrected.

The situation was resolved by implementing a new direct transmission method to the Commission, restoring the connection to Panama's VMS on 9 April and to the SPRFMO Commission's VMS on 11 April 2025. This incident was not the result of any action attributable to the vessel nor of any negligence by the competent authorities, but of a technical error that has since been resolved.

In accordance with the established procedures, Panama notified the Secretariat and, in the event of future failures, retains the option of manually sending positional data in Excel or CSV format for incorporation into the Commission's system, as foreseen in its operational protocol.

CMM 11-2023 – Boarding and Inspection (Paragraph 32 a, h, j)

During the inspection, the vessel did not have the required documentation on board. This omission, together with other observed elements, was considered an aggravating factor when determining the corresponding sanction.

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Panama concluded the internal sanctioning process, which culminated in the imposition of an administrative fine of **USD 300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars with 00/100)**, in accordance with Final Resolution DGIVC/RF/PSI/029-2025.

In addition to the economic sanction, the following additional measures were adopted:

1. Suspension of the International Service Fishing License, which enables the vessel to operate in areas regulated by RFMOs.
2. Request to the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) to restrict any procedure related to the change of ownership or cancellation of the vessel's registry.

These measures were applied immediately as part of Panama's preventive approach and were lifted only after the effective payment of the fine and verification of compliance with the imposed conditions.

The Republic of Panama reiterates its firm commitment to compliance with the measures adopted by this Organization and with the principle of effective cooperation in matters of control, surveillance, and sanction. The **SHUN ZE LENG 7** case was attended with speed, technical rigor, and in accordance with the national legal framework, guaranteeing a proportional, documented, and effective response.

We thank the Secretariat for the accompaniment provided and remain at your disposal for any additional information that the Committee deems necessary.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my esteem and consideration

Sincerely,

EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA D
Administrator General

EC/YV/MS/mea

cc: James Brown – Executive Secretary.
Commission Member & CNCPs.



**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS**

**Technical Circular
058-2023**

For:	Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents of fishing vessels and fishing related activity vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area
On Behalf:	General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control
Subject:	Amendments to the Conservation and Management Measures on the Vessel Monitoring System in the SPRFMO Convention Area
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/058/2023

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama, communicates to the Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents of fishing vessels and vessels of fishing related activities operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area that, during the annual meeting of the Commission, held in Manta, Ecuador from 13 to 17 February 2023, amendments to different Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) were adopted, Ecuador from February 13-17, 2023, amendments to different Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) were adopted, including the Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission's Vessel Monitoring System in the SPRFMO Convention Area (CMM 06-2023), which replaces CMM 06-2020.

In particular, we refer to paragraph 7 of Annex 1 of this CMM, which after its amendment, now requires that, *"Members and CNCPs shall ensure that VMS position reports are reported by each of their authorised vessels **at least once every hour.**"*

In turn, we also note that there have been changes in the "Manual Information" requirements, which are described in Annex 3 of this conservation measure.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned, Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents are reiterated to take the corresponding and timely measures so that all vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area comply with the measures established in CMM 06-2023.

✓ **Important and Mandatory**

Failure to comply with the provisions of CMM 06-2023 and informed by this circular will be considered violations of the current fishing regulations in accordance with the provisions of Law 204 of March 18, 2021, "Which regulates fishing and aquaculture in the Republic of Panama and dictates other provisions".

Attachment: CMM 06-2023

For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

**General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control and/or
Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC)**

Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama

Phone: (+507) 511-6017 / 511-6031

E-mail: ivc@arap.gob.pa / csp@arap.gob.pa



NOTA ACLARATORIA

18 de marzo 2025

Estimada(o),

Por medio de la presente, me permito informarle sobre los inconvenientes presentados con el envío de posiciones de una embarcación de bandera panameña.

El día 04 de abril, la embarcación identificada como "SHUN ZE LENG 7" experimentó dificultades en la transmisión de sus posiciones. Posteriormente, el 09 de abril se reanudó el envío de datos a THEMIS Panamá y, el 11 de abril, se reanudó el envío de las posiciones correspondientes a la SPRFMO.

El problema se originó debido a inconvenientes en la conexión del sistema FTP entre THEMIS Panamá y SPRFMO, en conjunto con la cantidad de envíos de datos que debían procesarse.

Cabe destacar que, gracias a gestiones internas, se implementó un nuevo método de entrega de información a la SPRFMO, lo que ha permitido solucionar estos inconvenientes y asegurar una comunicación fluida y eficiente.

Agradecemos su atención a este asunto y quedamos atentos a cualquier consulta adicional.

Atentamente,

Saludos cordiales,



Romain Flottes
Business Manager LATAM - Caribbean
Management of Sustainable Fisheries

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31520 Ramonville Saint-Agne - FRANCE

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CLARIFICATION NOTE

March 18, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you of the issues encountered with the transmission of positions from a Panamanian-flagged vessel.

On April 4, the vessel identified as "SHUN ZE LENG 7" experienced difficulties in transmitting its positional data. Subsequently, on April 9, data transmission to THEMIS Panama resumed, and on April 11, the transmission of positions to the SPRFMO also resumed.

The issue originated due to disruptions in the FTP system connection between THEMIS Panama and the SPRFMO, compounded by the volume of data transmissions that needed to be processed.

It is important to highlight that, thanks to internal efforts, a new method for delivering information to the SPRFMO was implemented. This solution has helped resolve the issues and ensured a smooth and efficient communication flow.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and remain at your disposal for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Kind regards,

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For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

**General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control and/or
Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC)**

Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama

Phone: (+507) 511-6017 / 511-6031

E-mail: ivc@arap.gob.pa / csp@arap.gob.pa

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CLS
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Sincerely,
Kind regards,