



VESSEL COMPLIANCE AND FLAG STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT IUU FISHING

Reference: SKN Maritime Circular MC 157 26, Dated July 2026

To: All Shipowners, Managers, Operators, Crew Agencies, Crew Members, Masters, Recognized Organizations and Flag State Inspectors (FSI) interacting with the St. Kitts & Nevis fleet

The St. Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry (SKAN Reg) has issued Maritime Circular MC 157 26, reminding shipowners, operators, managers, masters and recognized organizations that the Registry does not register fishing vessels and that St. Kitts and Nevis-flagged vessels are prohibited from engaging in, supporting, facilitating or assisting fishing operations without appropriate authorisation. This Technical Note summarises the principal points of the Circular for information.

1. Background

This Circular emphasises the Federation's commitment to preventing, deterring and eliminating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and is issued in conjunction with the Merchant Shipping Act, the Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act, UNCLOS, and various FAO instruments including the IPOA-IUU and the PSMA.

2. Prohibitions

The Registry does not register commercial fishing vessels, fish processing or harvesting vessels, or any vessel primarily intended for fishing operations. Pending an appropriate legal and regulatory framework, SKN-flagged vessels shall not engage in, undertake or provide fishing-related support activities (such as supply of fuel, provisions, bait or gear, crew transfers, or transshipment) to any fishing vessel, regardless of whether that vessel holds valid licences from another State.

3. Due Diligence and Enforcement

Shipowners, operators, managers and masters must exercise due diligence to verify that their vessel does not engage in or provide fishing-related support activities, ensure commercial arrangements and voyage plans do not facilitate fishing operations, and maintain records demonstrating compliance. Non-compliance may result in investigation, suspension of statutory services, administrative sanctions, detention recommendations, or removal from the Registry.

NOTES:

- This Technical Note has been prepared to keep readers informed of current developments and is offered for general guidance purposes only.
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- SKN-flagged vessels are prohibited from directly or indirectly supporting, facilitating or assisting any fishing operation or fishing vessel.
- Owners, operators, managers and masters must exercise due diligence and maintain records demonstrating compliance with this prohibition.

Requirement	Effective Date / Status
Fishing vessels	Not registered by the Saint Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry
Fishing-related support activities (fuel, provisions, bait, gear, crew transfer, transshipment)	Prohibited for SKN-flagged vessels pending an appropriate legal framework
Contravention of the prohibition	May result in investigation, suspension of services, sanctions, detention recommendation or removal from the Registry

4. Action Required

Owners, operators, managers, masters and recognized organizations should verify that their vessels do not engage in fishing or fishing-related support activities, review commercial arrangements and voyage plans accordingly, and maintain compliance records available to the Administration upon request. Any questions should be directed to shipreg@skanregistry.com.

For clarification on any of the above, please reach out to:

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