



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
OFFICE OF THE
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

VANUATU INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTRY

Circular #028

Deletion (Deregistration) Fees and Approval Requirements for Fishing Vessels

Date: January 23, 2026

From: Office of the Maritime Administrator, Vanuatu International Shipping Registry

To: Recognized Organizations, Shipowners, Operators, Masters, Agents, and All Concerned

1. Purpose

This Circular is issued to clarify and formalize the **applicable fees and approval requirements** for the deletion (deregistration) of **fishing vessels** registered under the Vanuatu flag, and to ensure proper coordination with the **Department of Fisheries**.

2. Deletion (Deregistration) Fee – Fishing Vessels

With immediate effect, the **deletion (deregistration) fee for any fishing vessel** registered in the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) is set at:

USD 12,000 (twelve thousand United States dollars)

This fee is **payable in addition to any other applicable fees or outstanding charges**, including but not limited to:

- Annual registration fees;
- Annual Tonnage Tax (ATT), where applicable;
- Outstanding penalties or administrative charges.

3. Unilaterally Deleted Fishing Vessels

The deletion fee set out in Section 2 **does not apply** to fishing vessels that are **unilaterally deleted by the Maritime Administrator**.

For such unilaterally deleted fishing vessels, the **previous deletion fee structure (“old formula”)** shall continue to apply.

Unilateral deletion may occur, inter alia, in cases involving:

- Sanctions or serious compliance breaches;
- Failure to comply with registry, fisheries, or international obligations;
- Reputational or regulatory risk to the Vanuatu flag;
- Other grounds determined by the Maritime Administrator.



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4. Mandatory Approval from the Department of Fisheries

As a reminder, **no fishing vessel may be deleted from the VISR** unless the Maritime Administrator has received the **express written approval of the Department of Fisheries**.

This requirement applies to:

- Owner-requested deletions;
- Deletions related to sale, transfer, or change of flag; and
- Any other voluntary deregistration request.

Deletion requests submitted without such approval will **not be processed**.

5. Compliance and Enforcement

Failure to comply with the requirements set out in this Circular may result in:

- Refusal to process the deletion request;
- Administrative penalties; and
- Any other enforcement action deemed appropriate by the Maritime Administrator.

6. Effective Date

This Circular is effective **immediately** upon issuance.

Saade Makhlouf
President & CEO
Office of the Maritime Administrator
Vanuatu International Shipping Registry