



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries  
**FISHERIES DIVISION**

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12 July 2017

Dear Stakeholder

**Re: Reporting system established for the purpose of Trinidad and Tobago's compliance with international fisheries management obligations**

Trinidad and Tobago is signatory to several international agreements and conventions which confer a range of fisheries management responsibilities. Among these responsibilities is the requirement, as a Port and Flag State, to record and report on fish and fish products entering and leaving the jurisdictional waters of the country.

The United Nations Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PMSA) came into force on 5 June 2016 and will be the next Agreement to which Trinidad and Tobago will soon accede. The text of the PSMA is available at: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/legal/docs/037s-e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/legal/docs/037s-e.pdf).

In preparation for implementation of the PMSA new procedures will be introduced for fishing vessels (local and foreign) which enter and depart the waters under national jurisdiction. Among these procedures are specific requirements for the collection of information from fishing vessels requesting entry into port, to be provided on Appendix A of the Arrival Declaration form, **at least 72 hours** before arrival at port. In addition, information will also be collected from departing fishing vessels, to be provided on Appendix A of the Departure Declaration form, **at least 24 hours** before departure from port. Kindly note that for the purposes of data and information collection and reporting, a 'fishing vessel' means *any vessel of any size used for, equipped for use for, or intended for use for the purposes of fishing or fishing-related activities, including support vessels, fish processing vessels, vessels engaged in trans-shipment and carrier vessels equipped for transportation of fish products, except container vessels.*

The Fisheries Division looks forward to your cooperation as we seek to strengthen our compliance with international best practices in fisheries management.

Yours faithfully

Director of Fisheries (Ag.)

**DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES**