**NAUTICAL GUIDE LICENSING CATEGORIES AND RULES FOR OPERATING IN NAUTICAL TOURISM**

**Mar Aberto / Mar Social**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is for informational purposes and aims to guide boat owners, artisanal fishermen, tourism operators, and members of NGOs partnered with **Mar Social** on the different categories of nautical licensing required by the **Brazilian Navy (Maritime Authority)** and the **Port Captaincies**, especially when it comes to operating in **nautical tourism**.

Proper licensing is mandatory and helps avoid fines, vessel seizures, and risks to navigation safety.

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## 2. TYPES OF NAUTICAL LICENSES

| Group | Type of License | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| **Recreational** | Arrais, Mestre, Capitão | Leisure, sport, and recreation — non-commercial |
| **Professional** | Professional Fisherman (POP, POM, PPC) | Artisanal or industrial fishing |
| **Professional** | Passenger Transport | Commercial transport of people |
| **Professional** | ESEP (Shipping Company) | Commercial vessel operation |

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## 3. MAR ABERTO — TOURISM, SPORT, AND RECREATION

| Category | Navigation Limit | Minimum Age |
|---|---|---|
| **Arrais Recreational** | Inland and coastal waters up to 12 miles | 18 years old |
| **Mestre Recreational** | Coastal navigation | 18 years old |
| **Capitão Recreational** | Oceanic navigation | 18 years old |

**Important rule:** To operate commercially transporting passengers, a recreational license is not enough. A professional **Passenger Transport License** or **ESEP** is required.

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## 4. MAR SOCIAL — NGOs AND ARTISANAL FISHERMEN

| Category | Acronym | Activity | Minimum Age |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Professional Fisherman** | POP | Artisanal or industrial fishing | 18 years old |
| **Specialized Fisherman** | POM | Fishing with specific techniques | 18 years old |
| **Deck Fisherman** | PPC | Larger fishing vessels | 18 years old |

**Important rule:** A fishing license is **only for fishing**. To take tourists, a **Passenger Transport License** or **ESEP** is mandatory.

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**5. PASSENGER TRANSPORT LICENSE AND ESEP**

**Requirements:**

- **Age:** 18 years or older
- **Education:** Completed Elementary School
- **Course:** Port Captaincy or accredited school
- **Health:** Medical and psychological exams
- **Experience:** Verified embarkation hours

**Categories:**

| Category | Navigation Limit |
|---|---|
| **Inland Waters** | Rivers, lakes, sheltered bays |
| **Coastal Navigation** | Up to 12 nautical miles from the coast |
| **Oceanic Navigation** | No distance limit |

**About ESEP:**

The **ESEP** is the license for those who wish to operate commercial vessels as a shipping company. It is recommended for those working with nautical tourism, passenger transport, or regular commercial operation.

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**6. QUICK COMPARISON**

| Situation | Required License |
|---|---|
| Fisherman fishing | Professional Fisherman (POP/POM/PPC) |

| Situation | Required License |
|---|---|
| Fisherman transporting tourists | Passenger Transport License or ESEP |
| Speedboat doing tourist tour | Passenger Transport License or ESEP |
| Boat for personal leisure | Arrais, Mestre, or Capitão Recreational |

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**7. VESSELS — TYPES AND REGISTRATION**

| Type | Can transport paying passengers? |
|---|---|
| **Sport and Recreation** | No, without commercial license |
| **Fishing** | No |
| **Passenger Transport** | Yes, with authorization |

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**8. RULES FOR NGOs AND SOCIAL PROJECTS**

- Vessels regularized and compliant with the Navy;
- Operators with compatible licenses;
- Transporting people requires compliance with safety standards;
- Educational activities may use sport and recreational vessels;
- When in doubt, consult the local Port Captaincy.

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**9. PENALTIES**

- Fine;
- Vessel seizure;
- License suspension;
- Civil and criminal liability;
- Prohibition from operating on Mar Aberto or Mar Social.

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**10. USEFUL LINKS**

- **Brazilian Navy:** marinha.mil.br
- **Port Captaincies:** marinha.mil.br/dpc/capitanias-dos-portos
- **Standards (NORMAM):** marinha.mil.br/dpc/normas

- **Courses:** marinha.mil.br/dpc/cursos

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**11. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Always check your license;
- Consult the local Port Captaincy;
- Keep vessel documentation up to date;
- Do not transport passengers without proper licensing;
- **Talk to your trusted nautical dispatcher (despachante náutico)** to speed up processes.