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Nicaragua Releases Crews Of Two U.S.-registered Fishing Vessels

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 21, Deputy Cmdr. Roger Ramirez, Interior Ministry representative for the South Atlantic coast, announced that the government had authorized the departure of two US-registered fishing vessels and the release of their nine crew members. According to the Sept. 22 issue of *Barricada*, the Sandinista National Liberation Front's official newspaper, seven US nationals and two Britons were arrested and their vessels impounded about a month ago on charges of illegal fishing in Nicaraguan waters. The vessels were seized 12 miles northwest of Corn Island. Ramirez said he had also informed captains Peter Rathey and Ronnie Avery that they had been exempted from paying fines of up to \$70,000. (Basic data from Xinhua, 09/22/89)

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