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## 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

*Held virtually, 24 to 28 January 2022 (NZDT)*

### COMM 10 – Report ANNEX 9b Statement of Chile regarding CMM 01-2022 on *Trachurus murphyi* *Republic of Chile*

Chile's statement at the adoption of the Jack mackerel measure for 2022  
Vice Ministry of Fisheries, Ms Alicia Gallardo  
25.01.2022

Mr Chair,

Distinguished delegates from SPRFMO Commission members, cooperating non-contracting parties, and observers;

Dear friends and colleagues;

It is my pleasure to address the SPRFMO Commission at the Tenth Meeting of our organisation. We have come a long way since the 2007 interim measures first regulating the jack mackerel fishery on the high seas, the adoption of the SPRFMO Convention in 2009 and our first meeting as Commission in Auckland in 2013.

SPRFMO is today a reliable organisation that boasts achievements that very few other RFMOs can show. One of them is the recovery of the jack mackerel fishery from a state of near-collapse in the early 2010s, one of the rare success stories in international fisheries. Our organisation has much to show close to its 10th anniversary, also beyond the management of the jack mackerel fishery.

Unfortunately, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still resonates in our work. Although the virtual format has been a most valuable tool, and we have made progress in some areas in the last two years, it is undeniable that the pandemic's restrictions have forced us to delay or postpone essential discussions.

One such decision initially set to be debated at this meeting concerns a central aspect of SPRFMO: participation and fishing rights in the jack mackerel fishery. A substantive discussion should occur in 2023 after we have agreed on the rollover of the current agreement. However, this issue is too important for my delegation and, therefore, it is here, distinguished delegates, that in my capacity of Vice-ministry of Fisheries of Chile, I would like to make a few points under this agenda item.

As you all remember very well, at the 5th SPRFMO Commission meeting held in Adelaide in 2017, members agreed by consensus on the participation percentages in the fishery, intended to last for five years. The Adelaide agreement proved very successful. It provided the certainty and confidence that directly supported the recovery of the jack mackerel fishery and delivered a straight framework to carry on sustainable fishing operations. Since then, SPRFMO members have acted with a sense of long-term responsibility and a shared determination that have benefited us all. My country offered proof of this purpose, demonstrated by giving consent to adopt a TAC that applied throughout the range of the fishery, including our EEZ under Article 20 paragraph 4 of the SPRFMO Convention.



Mr Chair, Chile has followed the implementation of the 2017 agreement closely. The facts are well-known to you all. Between 2017 and 2021, five out of ten SPRFMO members with jack mackerel quota have operated and fished the whole or part of their annual allocation. China caught 32.2% of its allocation, the Republic of Korea 30.2%, the European Union 45.7%, the Russian Federation 33.4%. Chile has fished nearly 120% of its quota given the transfers by SPRFMO members, effectively fishing 78.4% of all the jack mackerel catches throughout the South-East Pacific. Other members that were given quota allocation do not record catches of jack mackerel on the high seas under the 2017 agreement.

Under the current agreement, Chile was allocated 64.6% of the regional TAC. Yet, we have fished 78.3% of the total catches of jack mackerel from 2017 to 2021. These numbers speak for themselves. They underline that Chile is the leading jack mackerel fishery in the South-East Pacific. Equally, they show that Chile has paid a cost through quota transfers that have benefitted SPRFMO members.

Distinguished delegates, the next meeting will be crucial for managing the jack mackerel fishery and our organisation's stability. We will decisively favour another 5-year agreement consistent with the reality of the fishery, balancing fairness with stable fishing rights.

Crucially, we would like to see all SPRFMO members supporting such a future agreement. We endorse and respect the right of all coastal states to adopt unilateral measures in their waters for straddling stocks as recognised in international law, including the SPRFMO Convention. Still, they must be compatible with those adopted by the Commission because otherwise, we run the risk of exceeding the sustainable limits advised by science. Therefore, Chile invites and encourages all SPRFMO members to be part of a future agreement that can bring stability to the management measures throughout the whole range of the jack mackerel stock. We hope to start informal discussions long before the next meeting in 2023.

Finally, we would like to thank all SPRFMO members for the inter-sessional work, especially the cooperative discussion for the jack mackerel roll-over we have adopted. Thank you Mr Chair.