



12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 29 January to 02 February 2024

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Statement of Belize to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

Belize thanks the Chair and the members of the Jack Mackerel Working Group for their hard work and flexibility in achieving consensus in adopting this conservation and management measure for Jack Mackerel.

In 2013, this Commission adopted a management measure for Jack Mackerel which established a TAC of 360,000 metric tons. Belize was allocated 1145 tons under this measure, 10% of which was transferred to Chile consistent with the provisions of the measure. Our effective allocation represented 0.2864% of the 2013 TAC. Regrettably, circumstances prevented Belize from continuous participation in this Commission and its allocation was redistributed the benefit of the participants in this fishery.

At the 11th annual meeting of this Commission, Belize requested an allocation of Jack Mackerel consistent with its historical allocation. Instead, it was given an allocation as a new entrant. This year, Belize tabled a proposal which, among other things, sought to reinstate its historical fishing rights for this resource. This proposal was not accepted, and instead, Belize's historical catches was recognized by a marginal increase from the 2023 allocation at a level of 0.1060% of the 2024 TAC.

Recognizing and appreciating the difficult discussions and deliberations undertaken in the Jack Mackerel Working Group, Belize reluctantly agreed to support this allocation. While we did not block the consensus in adopting this CMM, Belize does not consider this allocation to be equitable as it does not adequately recognize Belize's historical rights or development aspirations. We would like the Members of this Commission to note the sacrifice Belize has made in the spirit of cooperation and compromise. Notwithstanding, Belize reserves the right to seek greater equity in its allocation of Jack Mackerel the next time this matter comes up for review.

Thank you Chair!



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Statement of Peru to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

SPANISH VERSION

DECLARACIÓN DE LA REPÚBLICA DEL PERÚ

La República del Perú estima oportuno señalar lo siguiente:

El Perú no se ha opuesto a la decisión tomada por la Comisión de la OROP-PS, mostrando flexibilidad con el ánimo de permitir un consenso, sin embargo, desea dejar constancia que su aspiración de pesca es mucho mayor a la que se le ha asignado fuera de sus aguas bajo jurisdicción nacional, la cual se le ha venido reduciendo los últimos años.

En ese sentido, el Perú desea destacar que la Organización Regional de Ordenamiento Pesquero del Pacífico Sur (OROP-PS) fue establecida con el propósito de asegurar la conservación y sostenibilidad de largo plazo en el uso de los recursos pesqueros en alta mar, incluyendo los stocks dentro del área de la Convención. Por lo tanto, con relación a los stocks del jurel, la competencia de la Comisión para adoptar medidas de conservación y manejo se limita a la alta mar y a las aguas jurisdiccionales de aquellos Estados ribereños que han declarado expresamente su consentimiento para someterlas de conformidad con el artículo 20(4)(a)(ii) de la Convención.

El Perú es un Estado ribereño en desarrollo que no ha aceptado someter sus aguas jurisdiccionales a la competencia de la Comisión, pero que, en ejercicio de sus derechos soberanos, dicta en relación con los recursos existentes en tales aguas, medidas compatibles con las adoptadas por la Comisión. Tales medidas están además sustentadas en la mejor información científica disponible, a partir de investigaciones que lleva a cabo el Instituto del Mar del Perú en distintos momentos de cada año. Asimismo, se desea destacar que el Perú colabora activamente y participa de manera consistente en el Comité Científico de la OROP-PS, proporcionando información y contribuyendo significativamente en el desarrollo de las investigaciones, así como en el desarrollo de los modelos de evaluación sobre los principales recursos pesqueros que se gestionan dentro del ámbito de esta organización.

Manta, 2 de febrero de 2024

ENGLISH VERSION

Statemet of the Republico of Perú

The Republic of Peru deems it appropriate to note the following:

Peru did not oppose the decision made by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) Commission, showing flexibility to allow consensus. However, it wishes to emphasize that its fishing aspiration extends beyond the allocation it has been granted outside its waters under national jurisdiction, which has been gradually reduced in recent years.

In this regard, Peru wishes to highlight that the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) was established with the purpose of ensuring long-term conservation and sustainability in the use of fishery resources in the high seas, including stocks within the Convention area. Therefore, regarding jack mackerel stocks, the Commission's authority to adopt conservation and management measures is limited to the high seas and the jurisdictional waters of those coastal States that have expressly consented to submit them in accordance with Article 20(4)(a)(ii) of the Convention.



Peru is a developing coastal State that has not accepted submitting its jurisdictional waters to the Commission's authority but, exercising its sovereign rights, enacts measures related to the resources in such waters, consistent with those adopted by the Commission. These measures are also based on the best available scientific information from research conducted by the Marine Institute of Peru at various times throughout the year. It is also worth noting that Peru actively collaborates and consistently participates in the Scientific Committee of SPRFMO, providing information and contributing significantly to research and the development of assessment models for the major fishery resources managed within the organization's scope.

Manta, February, 2nd 2024



COMM 12 - Report ANNEX 10c

Statement of Vanuatu to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

Vanuatu Statement on Jack Mackerel Allocation Agreement

Vanuatu would like to express its thanks to the Chair of the Working Group for his outstanding work in guiding our negotiations to a successful conclusion. This was achieved as a result of his transparent and inclusive approach taken to all delegations.

One observation on the substance of the allocation agreement is with regard to the unallocated quota. A reduction in the size of the unallocated quota from 9.02% to 8.59% is an important element of the allocation agreement. It is important to recognise that the unallocated quota is not in the nature of a TAC. Rather, it is simply an amount of quota set aside by the Commission to buffer the effects of catches taken in national jurisdictions that are not included in the Convention Area. In this respect, the buffer should reflect the long-term average of catches in national jurisdictions, not year to year catch variations.

Looking at the series of catches in the relevant national jurisdiction from 2013 to 2023, it is evident that the average catch is 92,000 tonnes. This is equal to 7.38% of the TAC. The current unallocated quota is well above this level. The agreed 2024 allocation rebalances this buffer, moving it down to 8.59% which is still well above the long-term average catch level in the relevant national jurisdiction.



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Statement of the HSFG to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

High Seas group statement: 2.02.2024

Dear Members,

The Proposal submitted by Australia SC11-DW05 would further impact our ability to fish in the SPRFMO area. If approved, the remaining very small area now open will be reduced by an additional 50%.

Even now it is impossible for our impacts to be significantly adverse. Fishing in the currently open areas simply cannot, as a matter of mathematics, be reasonably regarded as having a significant adverse impact on the area.

There are currently no Australian or New Zealand vessels fishing in the SPRFMO area, due primarily to the decisions taken by this commission.

I highlight the paper submitted by HSFG COMM 12-Obs 01

Decision makers and SC are now ignoring some clear science from HSFG, in favour of the rhetoric from people that suggest NZ commercial fishing in 0.1% of the SPRFMO area is a prime contributor to the destruction of ocean habitats and ecosystems. To repeat – bottom trawling is occurring in only one tenth of one percent of the total SPRFMO area. It is ridiculous to suggest it could be responsible for widespread ecological destruction.

Last year the total allowable catch of sustainably caught orange roughy was halved, in the limited area where we are licenced to fish. Reference to SPRFMO history shows the catch limits and historical footprint years first chosen by Australia and New Zealand were based on historical levels not representative of the actual catches. They also then closed 30% of the areas where our highest catch was taken.

In 2013 Australia presented a Spatial analysis paper based on bottom trawling at SC-01. That paper summarised historic fishing in the area and shows what is fished and what is not. I refer members to that paper, sent in as an information paper .

I invite you all to review the history of SPRFMO, which shows catch levels have not decreased because of ecological and stock collapse caused by bottom fishing – the main reason is restrictive and flawed conservation measures.

A example of poor decision making was New Zealand and Australia convincing the commission to declare that Pelagic or midwater trawling was in fact bottom fishing. I remind you that last week in CTC we adopted para 48 that clearly states what the HSFG has been arguing for years; namely that midwater trawling is not bottom trawling.

Fishing produces high quality food protein, a tangible commodity demonstrated to have a lower ecological footprint than most other forms of protein. With a growing world population, food security is not only needed it is an absolute obligation for all of us.

Thank you



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Statement of the DSCC to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

We are exceptionally disappointed with this outcome caused by NZ blocking Australia's proposal joined by only one Member, the Faroe Islands. We thank those members, US, European Union, and Chile which supported Australia's proposal. Those who were here last year will recall that NZ insisted on the 70% (and only 70%) proposal. For NZ now to block Australia's proposal, which as the US observed is in reality NZ's proposal from last year, is unacceptable, and represents a rejection of multilateralism and of assumed obligations that is completely out of step with international practice and norms.

As we noted yesterday, para 4 of CMM 3a reads:

4. All activities conducted under this CMM must be conducted in accordance with CMM 03-2023 (Bottom Fishing).

Para 19 reads that the Commission will review the bottom trawl management areas at its 12th annual meeting in 2024.

Since paragraph 19 has not been duly implemented, that logically means there can be no fishing.

This is also the necessary implication of UNGA resolution 61/105 paragraph 83a which reads that if VMEs are not managed to avoid SAls fishing activities are not authorised to proceed.

The same is provided in para 120 of UNGA resolution 64/72 which reads, and I quote, "and not to authorize bottom fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented;" This is also consistent with the precautionary approach under art. 3 of the SPRFMO Convention as well as the Fish Stocks Convention under which we also operate.

We call on all members to ensure that these provisions are faithfully implemented.



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Statement of the ILO to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

ILO intervention

As ILO pointed out at the last meeting of the SPRFMO Commission, the promotion of minimum labour standards in the fishing sector has become a key element in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of resources and safeguarding the marine ecosystem, which is the mandate of this Commission.

Echoing the words expressed by the Chair of this Commission in his opening remarks, SPRFMO needs to be a modern organization, and to this end, there are some important issues to be addressed such as climate change, labour issues, among others.

Within the framework of the joint FAO, ILO, and IMO Working Group on IUU fishing and Related Matters, the three organizations have collectively recognized the link between safety, labour and IUU issues, and the need for these issues to be addressed together in order to be effective. Facing these issues together help guard against overexploitation of fish stocks, protect the people catching them, and help ensure that all captains and crews on the ocean and in port are operating under the same set of rules.

Article 25, paragraph 4 of the Convention of the SPRFMO provides that *“each member of the Commission is encouraged to ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag operate in the Convention Area in accordance with applicable international obligations, and with regard to relevant recommendations and guidelines, regarding safety at sea for vessels and their crews”*.

It is well-known that labour violations and crimes such as forced labour may occur concurrently with IUU fishing practices in the fishing sector. Therefore, it is worth paying attention to poor working conditions and mistreatment of crews, including forced labour and child labour on board fishing vessels.

In this regard, would be of an advantage for the SPRFMO to discuss on this important aspect and to consider that the sustainability of the fishing sector needs to incorporate labour and human rights issues in accordance with international Declarations and Conventions such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, as well as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188).

The 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work confirms that all ILO Members have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in the organization, to respect, promote, and realize, in good faith, the principles concerning fundamental labour rights, such as the elimination of forced labour, abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and the promotion of a safe and healthy working environment, among others.

In that sense, the adoption of a CMM on labour standards would not only meet the Commission's objective but would also bring the SPRFMO in line with other efforts been done by other RFMOs in this area, such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The ILO welcomes this proposal and stands ready to support SPRFMO by providing, if necessary, technical assistance and international expertise in this area.



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Statement of ECO NZ and DSCC to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

CLIMATE CHANGE (ECO and DSCC)

30 Jan 2024 4:50 pm afternoon

Thank you chair, and thank you to Ecuador - on behalf of ECO and DSCC

The Commission's adoption of Decision 13-2023 is a welcome step toward developing and implementing effective management mechanisms to address the projected impacts of climate change within the Convention Area.

Our briefing provides some background on efforts being made by other RFMOs to address climate change and makes some specific suggestions for SPRFMO.

We would like to draw attention to preambular para 7 which notes the urgency in developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate on fishery resources in the Convention Area. This reflects the very pressing context of the Decision.

The Decision requests advice from SC and CTC to provide recommendations on responses to climate change impacts and mechanisms to build adaptation and resilience but believe it is essential that the Commission also progress discussion and agreement in the interim on this urgent issue.

In particular, the DSCC suggests that the Commission

- Takes a highly precautionary approach to the setting of catch limits in the absence of climate impact advice, using best science available
- Adopts the Chilean proposal for the protection of the unique and vulnerable ecosystems of Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges as a nature-based contribution to ecosystem protection and restoration from climate impacts
- Halts destructive fisheries practices such as bottom trawling on marine habitats likely to be more impacted by climate change, such as seamounts, seagrasses and other biodiversity hotspots. We would also draw the attention of the Commission to the recently published paper in *Frontiers in Marine Science* that reports the significant contribution of bottom trawling to the release of stored carbon.
- Requests a regular briefing from the SC on current and future impacts on climate change on SPRFMO-managed stocks, non-target species and ecosystems
- Directs the SC to consider the integration of climate impacts into all advice to the Commission



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Statement of EDF to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

As EDF we strongly support incorporating climate change into the work of the scientific committee and into science-based adaptive management decisions from the Commission by adoption of Decision 13-2023 and thank you to the United States for coordinating the important effort onto SPRFMO and support Chile proposal.

Climate change makes alterations in productivity, shifts in the distribution of marine resources, increase environmental variability and more frequent and extreme anomalies. This causes shocks in supply chains and put at risk food security and livelihood coastal communities.

Our main summary recommendations regarding climate change are:

1. SPRFMO could take a precautionary approach to management of resources given the threats and uncertainties of climate change.
2. The Scientific Committee should conduct intersessional activities reviewing the impacts of climate change in the SPRFMO region and the vulnerability of key SPRFMO resources to these impacts.
3. Incorporate climate and ecosystem considerations into all new CMMs via climate and ecosystem impact assessments.
4. Develop indicators and enhanced monitoring programs to assess CMM performance on relevant timescales (1-2 years) and allow for adaptive and dynamic management decisions in relation to climate and ecosystem state.

EDF would like to commit our in-kind support:

1. To advance the important effort of integrating climate change into SPRFMO,
2. Offer our support to plan and host a climate change side event for delegates to develop a strategy for climate-smart management in SPRFMO, including enhanced monitoring, modeling, and adaptive management of resources in relation to climate variability and change.
3. We want to share to Convention our experience in development together with IPIAP (Ecuador), IMARPE (Peru), IFOP (Chile) PRODUCE (Peru) and SubPesca (Chile) our An Observation Prediction and Early Warning System for Climate Impacts on Fisheries of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem – (<https://www.sapohumboldt.org/> call S.A.P.O. for Spanish acronym).



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Statement of the Kingdom of Tonga to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

Chairlady of the Commission, distinguished delegates, Secretariat, Observers, ladies and gentlemen. This statement is delivered on behalf of the Government of Tonga, which is an Observer to this Commission Meeting.

First and foremost, we deeply appreciate the generous hospitality of the Republic of Ecuador to our delegation during the two weeks that we are here for this meeting. It provides an extremely fitting environment in which to build our relationship with member countries of this Commission. Thank you and this is appreciated.

It is a pleasure to thank you Chair and Co-Chairs, for your role as Chair and continue to lead members during your tenure as Chair of the Commission.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the distinguish delegates from members this Commission for your consideration and support in allowing Tonga to be an Observer in this year's Commission meeting.

Finally, I also thank the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for your hard work, commitment and effort that have been a major factor in the successful of this Commission and it's work.

Chair, over the years, Tonga is a Small Islands States (SIDS) in the Pacific that have long history of commitment to cooperate with other countries in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) in the management of the marine resources at the national, regional and at the international level.

Chair, we do understand that we have a responsibility and a duty as coastal State for the conservation, management and development of the marine resources for the benefit of our people and other fishing communities in the world. The ocean is our heart, it serves as the foundation for our economy and the lifeline for other sectors from our tourism to fisheries to ocean transport international and others.

With that Tonga is committed to continue our participation and cooperation with members of this Commission in near future.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity for Tonga to be represented in this year's Commission meeting.

MALO AUPITO



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Statement of CALAMASUR to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

DECLARACIÓN DE CALAMASUR SOBRE LOS RESULTADOS DE LA 12ª REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN DE LA SPRFMO SOBRE LOS ASUNTOS RELATIVOS AL

CALAMAR GIGANTE VOLADOR

Señora Presidente, Distinguidas delegaciones,

CALAMASUR aprecia los continuos esfuerzos de esta Comisión para mejorar el ordenamiento y manejo colaborativo del Calamar Gigante en el área de aplicación de la Convención.

La 12ª Reunión de la Comisión ha tenido la singular oportunidad de avanzar en áreas cruciales de seguimiento, control y vigilancia en la pesquería del Calamar Gigante, para asegurar datos fiables y oportunos, especialmente respecto de las flotas distantes en operaciones para nosotros complejas e inciertas. Los datos dependientes de las operaciones de transbordo y de un sistema robusto de observadores, con fines científicos y de cumplimiento, son áreas esenciales aún pendientes de solidez. En este sentido, CALAMASUR lamenta no poder mostrar satisfacción por los resultados alcanzados en las áreas mencionadas, donde la expectativa de cobertura de los observadores era como mínimo alcanzar el 10% de días de pesca para su inmediata aplicación, por lo que esperamos que lo aprobado en esta ocasión permita un nuevo examen y revisión en la próxima 13ª Reunión de la Comisión.

La mejora de las medidas del Estado rector del puerto, tal como figura en una de las propuestas presentadas por los Miembros, también se considera una cuestión crucial pendiente; el hecho de no poder aprobarla esta vez invita a garantizar que la posición se considere con mayor rigor el año próximo.

CALAMASUR felicita los debates positivos tendientes al establecimiento de un "área de preocupación" para la gestión del calamar gigante, considerando la necesidad de obtener datos mejorados al servicio de la ciencia, no limitados exclusivamente a la gestión de un recurso específico, sino también para abordar la falta de conocimiento acerca del impacto agregado sobre el ecosistema que pueda existir, y de seguro existe, debido a una gran flota que realiza sus operaciones de pesca en el área focalizada frente a las costas de Sudamérica durante todo el año. CALAMASUR se compromete a proporcionar información relevante sobre este asunto que pueda apoyar los debates en las próximas reuniones del Comité Científico.

Por último, CALAMASUR desea expresar su reconocimiento y felicitación a nuestro anfitrión de la presente reunión, al haber facilitado la interpretación al idioma español por segundo año consecutivo, experiencia que se debería capitalizar y mantener. Por ello, agradecemos el apoyo otorgado ampliamente a la propuesta presentada una vez más por Ecuador para asegurar la interpretación del idioma español en los trabajos de la Comisión, inspirados en los principios de inclusión y transparencia. Está claro que el Convenio de la SPRFMO no limita a la Comisión a una sola lengua, mientras que el Artículo 18 sobre transparencia pide que se adopten y apliquen decisiones que permitan la participación de todas las partes interesadas, como los pescadores artesanales y comunidades hispano-parlantes. Aunque la decisión no fue adoptada esta vez, mantenemos la esperanza de que ello ocurra el próximo año.

Agradecemos dejar constancia de esta declaración en el reporte de la 12ª Reunión de la Comisión.

Muchas gracias .