



Date: 29 October 2009

Mr. Bill Mansfield
Chair
International Consultations on the Establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries
Management Organization

Dear Mr. Mansfield,

Re: Invitation to attend the Eighth International Meeting

Thank you for your invitation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to attend the Eighth International Meeting on the establishment of the SPRFMO.

Unfortunately, the WCPFC Secretariat will not be able to attend this meeting. In our absence I have prepared a short statement. I would it if you could arrange for it to be made available to meeting participants.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Wright
Executive Director

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Statement of the Secretariat of the WCPFC to the Eighth International Meeting on the establishment of a SPRFMO

The Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) extends its appreciation to the conveners of the international consultations on the establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) for the invitations to attend the meetings that have been associated with the establishment of the SPRFMO. The Secretariat was pleased to participate in a previous session in Wellington, New Zealand. Unfortunately, due to other work commitments and limited resources, the Secretariat was not able to be represented at other meetings and, similarly, will be unable to take up the invitation to attend the Eighth session.

The area of application of the WCPF Convention extends from the southern Australian coast due south along the 141° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130° meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4° parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150° meridian of west longitude.

The WCPF Convention applies to highly migratory fish stocks which includes all fish stocks of the species listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention occurring in the Convention Area, and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine, but not saurians. As the Convention requires the Commission to adopt measures to minimize waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, pollution originating from fishing vessels, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, promote the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques and protect biodiversity in the marine environment we see significant opportunities for the development of a mutually beneficial relationship between WCPFC and the SPRFMO in the future. We look forward to opportunities to consider this further on the finalization of the SPRFMO treaty text and approaching entry into force of the Convention.

We wish all participants best wishes for a successful and productive meeting.