

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1508, USA – www.iattc.org
Tel: (858) 546-7100 – Fax: (858) 546-7133 – Director: Guillermo Compeán

29 October 2009

Ref.: 0519-700

Mr. William Mansfield
Chair
International Consultations
on the Establishment of the proposed
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
Level 4, ASB Bank House, 101-103 The Terrace
Wellington
New Zealand

Dear Mr. Mansfield,

Thank you for your invitation to the Secretariat of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to attend the Eighth International Meeting on the establishment of the SPRFMO. Unfortunately, the Secretariat will not be able to attend this meeting.

However, we would like to take the opportunity of the eighth meeting to advise the participants in the consultations of the entry into force of a new convention for the conservation and management of the highly migratory species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), as elaborated in the attached statement.

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this statement or otherwise make it available to the meeting participants.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guillermo Compeán', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Guillermo Compeán
Director

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Statement of the Secretariat of the IATTC to the Eighth International Meeting on the establishment of the SPRFO

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) would like to thank the organizers of the international consultations on the establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) for the invitation to attend the Eighth International Meeting on the establishment of the SPRFMO. Unfortunately, the Secretariat will not be able to attend this meeting.

However, we would like to take the opportunity of the eighth meeting to advise the participants in the consultations of the entry into force of a new convention for the conservation and management of the highly migratory species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). This convention, known as the Antigua Convention, is intended to strengthen the IATTC, which was established by a 1949 Convention between the United States and Costa Rica. The Antigua Convention was adopted on 27 June 2003, and since the final ratification necessary for its entry into force has recently been deposited, the Convention will enter into force on 27 August 2010.

The area of application of the Antigua Convention comprises the area of the Pacific Ocean bounded by the coastline of North, Central, and South America and by the following lines:

- i. the 50°N parallel from the coast of North America to its intersection with the 150°W meridian;
- ii. the 150°W meridian to its intersection with the 50°S parallel; and
- iii. the 50°S parallel to its intersection with the coast of South America.

Regarding the marine species subject to the Antigua Convention, the Convention defines “fish stocks covered by this Convention” as stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area. The stocks of tunas covered by the Antigua Convention would include those listed in Annex 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the stocks of tuna-like species covered would include marlins, sail-fishes, and swordfish, also listed in Annex 1 of the Law of the Sea Convention.

Other marine species falling under the purview of the Antigua Convention are those belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention. We believe that there are likely to be important future opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between the IATTC and the SPRFMO with regard to the conservation of these species.

The IATTC Secretariat would like to wish success to the participants in the eighth round of consultations in their negotiations, and looks forward to cooperating closely with any regional fisheries management organization which may result.