



**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

3-7 December 2007

Tumon, Guam, USA

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**LETTER FROM EL SALVADOR TO THE WCPFC CHAIR**

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**WCPFC4-2007/OP15**

**7 December 2007**

Guam, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2007

**Mr  
Andrew Wright  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific  
Fisheries Commission-WCPFC**

**Mr  
Glen Hurry  
Chairman  
Western and Central Pacific  
Fisheries Commission-WCPFC**

Dear Sirs,

In name of the Republic of El Salvador, I would like to present a formal protest for the proceedings during the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting, and particularly for the disrespectful way that my country has been treated by a member of this organization during the consideration of the request of El Salvador to become a Cooperating Non Party.

El Salvador came to this meeting in good faith, with its highest regards and respect for the Commission, its members and its procedures. El Salvador came with committed aspirations to cooperate with this Commission, first as an observer and then following what we understood were clear procedures and requirements, to become a cooperating non member.

We submitted on a timely manner our application and meet what we thought were the established requirements. We listened with attention the statement of the WCPFC legal advisor where he clearly stated that El Salvador meet all the requirements to become a CNM. However its aspirations were rejected in contravention of international law, practice and more strikingly, against the own regulations in place in the WCPFC.

However there was a more violent contravention: the one inflicted upon El Salvador by the official statements made on record and publicly by the Government of New Zealand thru its representatives at this meeting.

The comments and denostation made by the delegation of New Zealand are totally unacceptable to my country, in several aspects, particularly the one regarding to being a “flag of convenience” country. Having been called this in an international forum is contrary to all international dispositions and conventions that regulate diplomatic relations between sovereign nations. It also reflects a predisposition against my country and an absolute distortion of facts. Mr Chairman this goes beyond the apologies remedies. El Salvador does not need to explain the development and nature of its tuna industry nor its legitimate right as a developing coastal state to fish in the high seas according to and as permitted by, international law. El Salvador will continue to fish in accordance to and in compliance with all international regulations, continuing its excellent record of compliance and sustainable fishing practices it has shown in other organizations such as IATTC, AIDCP and FAO, fully consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

Because of such situation, my delegation has decided to withdraw from this meeting, where in addition we must state were deprived from the opportunity to express ourselves, as observers do in any other fishery fora. I would respectfully request to include in the proceedings of this meeting this protest for the denostation inferred upon El Salvador and its people by the Government of New Zealand, and will appreciate if you could read this statement before the end of this meeting in plenary and distribute it to all the participants.

Sonia M. Salaverria  
Head of EL SALVADOR’s Delegation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

CC: Dr. Mario Aguilar , IATTC Chairman.