



## **FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

3-7 December 2007  
Tumon, Guam, USA

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### **DECLARATION OF MEXICO AS AN OBSERVER TO THE 4<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

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**WCPFC-2007/OP17  
7 December 2007**

Mexico appreciates the opportunity to be present in this fourth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and extends to all its members its regards and high consideration.

For Mexico, the conservation of the tuna resources as well as the conservation of the marine ecosystem, is a high priority. As a coastal state of the Pacific and a fishing nation that has harvested tuna in the Pacific since early nineteenth centuries, we attach a major importance to the management of the resources recognizing the need to do it in close cooperation with the nations that harvest the same resources. In the tuna fishery, as well as all other fisheries whether regulated at national or at multilateral level, the guiding criteria for Mexico, is the sustainability of the resources.

Along with its right to fish, as recognized by numerous instruments of international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Mexico fully recognizes its duties and obligations established in several instruments and conventions to fish in a responsible manner, giving particular attention to its obligation to cooperate with other States in the conservation and management of living resources, particularly when they are the same, as prescribed in article 118 of UNCLOS. Mexico is also a strong supporter of undertaking multilateral cooperation under high standards of fairness, transparency and participation, as enunciated in the Code of Conduct of Responsible fisheries, as we believe they enable effective and successful cooperation for the management of the fisheries.

It is with this understanding and as call for by multiple international instruments that Mexico continues to respectfully express its interest in the work and responsibilities of the WCPFC. Mexico has historically participated in the fishery in the Convention area since the early eighties, harvested the shared resource since decades earlier, and participated in the road to the creation of the Commission since 1994. Mexico participated as Observer since the fifth and subsequent sessions of the Conference, and has continued to follow the development of its works since then. As a member of the IATTC, Mexico strictly observes the conservation and management measures in place that protect the same stocks of concern to the WCPFC as regulated by the IATTC.

Bearing in mind its historical rights to harvest tuna in the Convention Area, Mexico is conscious of the recent developments in the region to manage the resource, by the WCPFC and the management measures that have been put in place by this organization and its member states. Mexico firmly supports these endeavors. As a developing country whose fleet is owned by nationals, who support hundreds of families that depend on this resource and provide it for domestic consumption as highly valuable protein, Mexico fully recognizes the special condition of the small island developing states and stands ready to further multilateral cooperation. Given its own experience and as a matter of principle, Mexico strongly recognizes the right of coastal developing states to develop its own fisheries.

Given the dependence of the resource of several Pacific nations in the West and the East, and the imperative need to manage it under sound scientific basis, Mexico is ready to fully cooperate with the WCPFC and all of its members thru the appropriate mechanisms by amongst others, sharing information of its corresponding fishing operations, research programs, conservation measures, relevant enforcement activities pertaining to its fleet, or any other that may proceed.

With the believe that cooperation between IATTC and the WCPFC is critical in as much as direct presence, participation and cooperation among their members, Mexico is also considering whether to initiate a request to the Commission to become a Cooperating Non-Member for this next year 2008.

This request will be conducted in close adherence to Article 32 of the Convention, the requirements established for that purpose under the corresponding resolutions and measures emanated from the Commission, as well as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the mandate of international fisheries instruments, and customary international law. Most importantly, Mexico believes that this will contribute to the sustainability of the shared tuna resources.

We respectfully request the Chair of the Commission to include this Declaration, as appropriate, in the proceedings of this session of the Commission.