



COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
4-8 December 2023
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

Statement of Appreciation to WCPFC20 for Granting Observer Status to OSPESCA

WCPFC20-2023-OP18
4 December 2023

OSPESCA



**STATEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
SECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ISTHMUS (OSPESCA)
IN APPRECIATION TO THE
WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)
FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WCPFC 20TH REGULAR SESSION
Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 4-8 December 2023**

The Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) would like to express its special thanks to the People and the Government of the Cook Islands, for allowing us to enjoy the wonders of this Paradise, which happens to be the ideal place to begin our participation as an observer in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Allow me to express, on behalf of our Member States Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, our gratitude to all WCPFC Member States for welcoming our participation.

OSPESCA was created within the framework of the Central American Integration System, to become the regional agency dedicated to foster intra and extra regional communication and coordination, to collaboratively ensure responsible fisheries and aquaculture worldwide, where RFMOs such as the WCPFC and its Member States play a preponderant role. We look forward to contributing our knowledge and experience with you and learning from the wealth of experience and success achieved by WCPFC and its members.

OSPESCA wishes to extend to you our commitment to work with, and support, the work of the WCPFC, in the spirit of strengthening the sound fisheries management in the vast Pacific Ocean, related to the blessed activities from which our developing states and communities depend on to ensure the future of our peoples.

In tribute to our commitment and recognition of the successful work of WCPFC and its members states through the years, I have the honor to deliver to the WCPFC on behalf of OSPESCA, a piece of wood crafted by our artisans, made of the strongest local wood obtained sustainably, as strong and sustainable we envision our relationship to grow, representing a healthy tuna, as healthy we hope to maintain our oceans and marine biodiversity together.

Once again, thank you all very much.