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EL SALVADOR LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THEIR RENEWAL OF CNM STATUS

**WCPFC8- 2011-DP/37
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Paper prepared by El Salvador



MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA
DIRECCION GENERAL DE PESCA Y ACUICULTURA (CENDEPESCA)



Santa Tecla, December 2nd, 2011

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Professor
Glen Hurry
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia,
Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Professor Hurry:

I kindly refer to your letter dated October 8th 2011 in relations to the 7th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee of the WCPFC where additional information is requested from El Salvador in order to consider the renewal of our Cooperating Non Member Status for 2012.

In regards to the amount of days fished within the WCPFC, we have in various occasions sent this information this year, and have stated that we have fished a total of 23 days in 2010 and that this only pertains to international waters outside of the IATTC-WCPFC overlap area.

In relations to the IATTC-WCPFC overlap area, we very respectfully would like to reiterate to the members of the Commission, that El Salvador is a High Contracting Party of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission-IATTC, and recognizes the area of the IATTC to be from the coastline of North, Central and South America to 150° West meridian and its intersection with parallel 50° North and 50° South. Therefore, we have historically fished in international waters within the overlap area long before the WCPFC was established.

El Salvador has demonstrated throughout the years as a Cooperating Non Member of the WCPFC, its commitment to the compliance of all conservation and management measures, nevertheless we cannot in our willingness to cooperate with this Commission, limit our sovereign and historical rights to fish within the overlap area as members of the IATTC, and also, according to the rights given to us by international law, especially considering we are a developing country with a small vulnerable economy who has just recently started to develop its high seas fisheries.

We would like to indicate that El Salvador has taken strong measures in relations to tuna conservation, and all our purse seine vessels make a complete 62 day fishing closure each year, in addition, during the WCPFC FAD closure, both our registered vessels have not only not fished on FADS, but have not fished at all in the WCPFC area. Furthermore, both vessels are fully monitored by two VMS systems and carry two onboard observers, one from IATTC's program and other from Kiribati's observer program. As you can observe, our level of compliance goes above and beyond what is required for other States.

We further would like to express our belief that the differences between IATTC and WCPFC in relations to the overlap area should be addressed by both organizations as an urgent matter. It is very concerning that this issue be transferred to States that in good faith wish to cooperate with WCPFC. We strongly encourage





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that a meeting between both organizations should be held as soon as possible in order to discuss this important issue and conjunctly find solutions to the management of this area.

With relation to the some compliance issues that need more information, we are currently working in the FAD management Plan and doing the necessary consultations to finish it as soon as possible. The VMS audit are been conducted together with the inspections to the vessels once a year, as part of the national protocol for inspections. As well as, we want to emphasize that discard are prohibited by our law and we stopped to fish in the high seas pocket from January 2010; if necessary, we will evaluate to incorporate these two measure to the CIAT resolution next year.

Finally, we reiterate the Republic of El Salvador's adherence and full compliance of all conservation and management measures as it is important for us to promote responsible fishing practices and the sustainable use of the marine resources.

Sincerely yours,

Ing. Alejandro Flores Bonilla
General Director

