

The logo of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) is a blue rectangular banner with a repeating pattern of fish swimming to the right. The text "South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the banner.

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

1st Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee

Manta, Ecuador, 27-31 January 2014

CTC-01-07

Application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status by Panama

Secretaría General

Panamá, 8 de noviembre de 2013
SG-033-13

Robin Allen
Acting Executive Secretary
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization

Mister Allen:

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) and the Government of Panama are committed to the prevention and elimination of Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities (IUU). We believe that IUU fishing is one of the most serious threats facing the biodiversity of the world's oceans. Our most recent national regulations highlight our role as an international partner in the fight against IUU activities. Under intense pressure from the European Union yellow card warning issued to Panama in December of 2012, we have adopted a new comprehensive set of instruments to combat this scourge of the oceans and we are moving forward with implementing strict new regulations for all vessels engaged in fisheries and fisheries support activities.

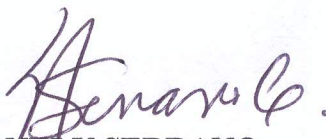
Reaffirming our position as explained above, we hereby inform you, that The Government of Panama officially request to the SPRFMO Commission to accept Panama as a Cooperating Non Contracting Party to the Convention. For your information, Panama is a Contracting party to IATTC, ICCAT and a Cooperating Non Member of WCPFC, and we already ratified the CCAMLR Convention. We are also working very closely with the European Union on IUU issues.

Regarding the letter we received through the Panama Maritime Authority Ref: 2013-0100 where the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization's (SPRFMO) conservation and management measure CMM 1.04 provides procedures for the establishment of a List of Vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) activities in the SPRFMO Area and the intention to include the Carrier Vessel Frio Mogami. Panama already opened a sanctioning procedure against said vessel for failure to properly notify ARAP and the Government of Panama prior to operating in the SPRFMO convention area. For this reason, we want to request you to not include this vessel in the Draft IUU List, considering that we are taking effective actions in response of the activity.

We are committed to comply with the conditions established in regulation SPRFMO for the vessel to be removed from the SPRFMO draft IUU list.

Any additional information requested regarding this case will be supplied to the SPRFMO Secretariat by ARAP.

Kind Regards


NELY SERRANO
Secretaria General



Copia. Lic. Maricel Morales, Administradora General Encargada