

STATEMENT OF ECUADOR

In general, Ecuador reaffirms its commitment to achieving the objectives and complying with the principles of the Convention for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the high seas of the South Pacific Ocean. These objectives have been taken into account effectively through national actions and policies adopted by our country, which have been reported at this meeting that we have had the honor of hosting.

Our country has been a faithful follower of the Resolutions of other RFMOs of which Ecuador is a member or non-contracting cooperating party, such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission IATTC and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission WCPFC. It is also implementing the recommendations of FAO, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Action Plans for Conservation and Management of Species and the Action Plan for Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fisheries.

We affirm our vocation to achieve a responsible fisheries management, which has been demonstrated through specific actions in several international fisheries fora to which we are Party and with the implementation of time-area closures for Tuna, Small Pelagics, Shrimp, and others fisheries.

We are applying Action Plans for Mahi Mahi and Shark resources, as well as actions for the reduction in by-catch mortality of sea turtles using circle hooks and through the adoption of observer programs in most of the country's industrial fisheries.

These are some real examples of the coherence of the Government of Ecuador on the matter of responsible fisheries management in its territorial waters, exclusive economic zone, convention area and international waters.

We have been building an information system for jack mackerel in both coastal and insular EEZ and it will be in due time made available to the Scientific Committee of this Convention in due time.

As Jack mackerel and other species are dynamically shared with Peru, we are coordinating actions for the information system of shared species to be sufficiently clear as to encourage the adoption of management measures that respond to the reality of the stocks.

Ecuador reaffirms its rights and future access to the fisheries of the species as included in Article 21 of the Convention and is currently completing its internal processes that will lead to full membership.

Ecuador confirms its commitment to continue working on implementation of the decisions adopted by the Commission in accordance to Article 20 (4) and confirms its right to undertake fisheries management in waters under its jurisdiction as well as in its exclusive economic zone,

based on current scientific information provided by the competent national organizations and its sovereign right to ensure the food security of its people, taking into account the recommendations of the Scientific Working Group as applicable.

Manta, Ecuador, January 31, 2014.