

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

3rd Meeting of the Commission Auckland, New Zealand, 2-6 February 2015

COMM-03-INF-08

Statement by the CPPS

Good morning everyone,

Hearing the discussions that have been taking place during the last days, in particular on Wednesday, I believe that instead of making a long statement I will try to make some comments that could be of interest to all of you and to our Organisations.

First let me introduce myself. I am Marcelo Nilo Director of scientific affairs and fishery resources at CPPS. We are an intergovernmental organization, and old one with more than 60 years in place, integrated by Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Perú. Also we hold the executive secretary for the Plan of Action (a Regional Seas Programme using UNEP jargon that includes Panamá as a relevant member).

If you allow me, I think three substantial arguments have been put into place during the meeting:

- Conservation principles
- IUU concerns
- Compliance

Even though CPPS nature is to coordinate maritime policies of its member states (we are not a Management organization) the arguments that for you are relevant, are relevant for us as well.

Let me give some examples:

- Our frameworks states (mandate from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Galápagos Commitment):
 - Take into account the ecosystem approach, the precautionary principle, and other international instruments within our national jurisdiction, and since 2012, projected to ABNJ
 - IUU is one of our most relevant issues and concerns, but we approach it in a different way. Capacity building to inspectors (more than 200 in the last couple of years) and decision makers (37). Opening this initiative to other interest parties like Costa Rica and other organizations like OSPESCA. Annex E of the port state measures. Using inclusive methods of participation.
 - Compliance, again training in different methods, tools, guidelines. Learning by doing

This actions, which are a part of what we do, end up in improved capabilities in our countries and in recommendations to our governments.

On the first day the President opening statement was clear, relevant and consistent with the concerns governing the oceans today. We congratulate you all for this clarity of purpose. After all business as usual is no longer the road to follow today. In particular when you are responsible for the biggest RFMO (area) of the world. At CPPS we are responsible of the most productive ecosystems services; this is another commonality that we share with you.

On the scientific committee some relevant subjects were brought up, in particular deep sea fisheries. CPPS is part of the steering committee of the ABNJ initiative, one of the projects of the common oceans program where our region is the pilot area to start developing marine spatial planning initiatives. We have been involved in VMEs training and reviewing the DSF Guidelines with FAO. In fact during 2015 we plan to hold a regional meeting on VMEs. On this scenario we are sure that we could help each other in different ways trying to maximize regional efforts.

Since the beginning of the meeting, too important concepts were present during the argumentations that have taken place, inclusion and sharing of benefits. The first one concerning new Members desires the second one reflecting a common view to keep the ecosystems services (fisheries in this case) for future generations. That's indeed a big step for the region.

Finally let me in the name of our General Secretary and my own congratulate Ecuador for becoming a full member of the Organisation we are sure that Perú and Colombia will follow the same path in the short run.

Thank you.