



**South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee**

**Auckland, New Zealand, 30-31 January 2015**

**CTC-02-10**

**Panama's application to renew Cooperating non-Contracting Party status**

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Panamá, November 27, 2014.

Honorable  
Johanne Fischer  
Executive Secretary

Dear Mrs. Fischer,

Reaffirming our position expressed the last year, we hereby inform that the Government of Panama officially request to the SPRFMO Commission to renew our status of Cooperating Non Contracting Party to the Convention. For your information, Panama is a Contracting Party of IATTC, ICCAT and Cooperating non Member of the WCPFC and ratified the CCAMLR Convention.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) and the Government of Panama are committed to prevent and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. We believe that IUU fishing is one of the most serious threats facing the biodiversity of the world's oceans. Our regulations highlight our role as an international partner in the fight against IUU activities.

We are committed to comply with the conditions established in SPRFMO regulations.

The reason to seek the status of Cooperating non Contracting Party is because we have a fleet that operate in the Convention Area.

We express our commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and ensure that panamanian fishing vessels and support fishing vessels comply with the provisions of the Convention, conservation and management adopted by the Commission.

Also we inform the explicit commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection.

Any additional information requested, will be supplied to the SPRFMO Secretariat by ARAP.

Best Regards,



**RAUL DELGADO**  
Director General

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