

IX ASSEMBLY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC PERMANENT COMMISSION

Quito, Ecuador 23 – 25 November 2010

Declaration on the Conservation of Fisheries Resources in the South Pacific High Seas

The South Pacific Permanent Commission and its member:

1. Share an abiding concern for sustainable development of deep sea fisheries, and the management and conservation of straddling and highly migratory species.
2. Welcome the recommendation of the 2010 Review Conference of the New York Agreement, in order to urgently commit to reverse the current situation of those straddling and highly migratory fish stocks which are overfished;
3. Reiterate their interest in the negotiations of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and expressed their willingness to continue their active and coordinated participation in the Second Session of the Preparatory Conference of the SPRFMO, which will take place in Cali, Colombia, from 24 to 28 January 2011
4. Take note of the results of the jack mackerel stock assessment made under the Interim Scientific Working Group of the SPRFMO, held in Viña del Mar, Chile, between 21 and 29 October 2010, and recognize the critical state in which it finds the stock;
5. Trust that in the course of the Second Preparatory Conference of the SPRFMO, the existing Interim Measures will be revised and new Interim Measures will be taken in order to guarantee the sustainability of resources in the long term, based on scientific information available;
6. Urge the countries participating in negotiations of SPRFMO to adequate their volume of catches of jack mackerel in the Convention area during 2011 and 2012, to levels that allow the recovery of fishery, according with the recommendation of the Interim Scientific Working Group.
7. Urge participant countries to become parties of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean.