

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

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H.E. Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru Minister of Foreign Affairs
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street, off Abidjan Street,
Wuse Zone 3,
P.M.B. 130, Garki
Abuja
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Excellency

I have the honour to present my compliments and to refer to the [Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean](#). This Convention, which establishes a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), was adopted in Auckland, New Zealand on 14 November 2009 and is now awaiting receipt of the necessary number of ratifications, accessions, acceptances or approvals for entry into force under Article 38. The negotiations that resulted in the adoption of this Convention were open to all states and fishing entities with an interest in the high seas fishery resources of the South Pacific. The participants in the negotiations adopted interim conservation and management measures and arrangements to apply during the negotiations and the period between adoption of the Convention and its entry into force. These arrangements included the establishment of an Interim Secretariat of which I have the honour to be the Executive Secretary.

I write to advise you that the Interim Secretariat has received detailed information from a participant (including photographic evidence) that a vessel flying the Nigerian flag, the *Seabull 22*, was recently fishing in the SPRFMO area, and in a manner that is contrary to the SPRFMO Interim Measures. In particular, I would point out that the fishing method being used by the *Seabull 22* (deep water gill netting) is prohibited under these measures.

I am attaching copies of the SPRFMO Interim Measures and respectfully request you to refer these to the relevant authorities in Nigeria and, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea and Fish Stocks of 1982 and 1995 respectively, ensure that Nigerian vessels cooperate in the conservation and management of the high seas living resources in the Convention area and observe these measures, including the prohibition on deep water gill nets.

I should further note that the SPRFMO Interim Measures include the commitment by the participants to collect, verify and report data on the activities of their vessels fishing in the area in accordance with the Standards for Data that I am also attaching. It would be greatly appreciated if the Nigerian authorities would provide data on the fishing activities of the above vessel and any others from Nigeria that may be fishing in the South Pacific Ocean to the Interim Secretariat.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to advise you that the Convention is open to accession by any state having an interest in fishery resources in the Convention area and to note that the text of the Convention, a map of the Convention Area, a list of participants in the negotiations and the Preparatory Conference for the Commission of the new Organisation and much additional information is available on the SPRFMO website.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Robin Allen
Executive Secretary