



11TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 13 to 17 February 2023

COMM 11 – Report ANNEX 9f

Vanuatu's statement on jack mackerel

Vanuatu supports the Chair's proposal because it is firmly based on the 2017 allocation that was agreed by all members and which was recognized as having taken into account all of the provisions of Article 21 of the Convention.

The Chair's proposal deviates from the 2017 quota allocation in two important ways. Firstly, it recognizes that the "existing level of fishing effort" referred to in Article 21 has become highly concentrated in the coastal waters of Chile, with the result that Chilean vessels now take around 78% of the total catch of jack mackerel.

Consequently, the Chair's proposal allocated an increased share of the TAC to Chile compared to its existing allocation.

The second deviation of the Chair's proposal from the 2017 allocation is to provide a quota allocation to three new entrants to the fishery, Cook Islands, Panama and Belize. The size of the quota allocation is the same at 1,100 tonnes, and is based on the precedents of new entrant allocations provided to Ecuador in 2015 and Cuba in 2017.

It is important to note that the effect of the increased quota allocation to Chile is distributed proportionally across all other members that currently hold quota. The effect of the allocations to new entrants is also distributed proportionally. By so doing, all members are treated fairly.

Vanuatu would therefore reiterate that the Chair's proposal is built upon the agreed 2017 quota allocation and that the two deviations from the current allocation are firmly based on the provisions of Article 21 of the Convention, which in Vanuatu's view has been appropriately complied with.