



SPRFMO
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

11TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 13 to 17 February 2023

COMM 11 – Obs 01

Proposal for the use of Spanish in SPRFMO

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11TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, February 2023

COMM 11 – Prop xx

PROPOSAL TO:

Amend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create	The Commission mandates the use of both English and Spanish languages in the official communications and the simultaneous interpretation English and Spanish during the Commission meetings.
Submitted by: xxxxxxxxxxxx	
Summary of the proposal: <p>The SPRFMO Convention recalls and recognizes that for achieving conservation and management of living resources in the areas of the high seas, cooperation is of essence. The joint work engaged by Members and CNCPs is conditioned to the exchange of views, data and debates for understanding their needs and expectations, which implies that the better the communication is, the most effectively the Commission performs. As reflected in the Convention, international law is mindful of the special requirements of developing States for an equitable participation, as reflected in Article 119.3 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and in Article 8.3 of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.</p> <p>This proposal recognizes that the SPRFMO Convention Area’s most representative fishery zone borders the EEZ of the countries of central and south America, whose communities are characterized by their Spanish mother language and their condition as developing States, requiring to better understand the work of the Commission and better participate in the joint work. It also notices that 5 Members of the Commission, which is nearly one third of all current Members, share Spanish as a common official language, while English is the official language (or one of the official languages) of 6 Commission Members.</p>	
Objective of the proposal: <p>Over the years, although Members and CNCPs Spanish-speakers have made strong efforts to better assure their participation, the use of the English language alone in the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in their official documents, have turned to become a strong limitation in the exercise of participation rights both in scientific and decision-making processes.</p> <p>To overcome such a limitation and modernize the SPRFMO towards ensuring non-discrimination and full participation, this proposal aims to guarantee that documents are also available to Members and CNCPs in Spanish language and the meetings provide simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish languages. Proponents understand that this purpose can be achieved by means of a Commission administrative decision and does not imply an amendment to the Convention, as the objective of non-discriminatory participation is clearly enshrined in its spirit.</p> <p>Upon the adoption of this AM, it can be expected to have an increased participation of scientists and</p>	

fisheries managers of Spanish speaking Members and eventual new CNCs of Latin America, which shall of enhance the work of the Commission and contribute to the achievement of the objective of the SPRFMO Convention.	
Has the proposal financial impacts or influence on the Secretariat work?	Yes No
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ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE XX-2023

The Commission mandates the use of both English and Spanish languages in its official communications and the simultaneous English and Spanish interpretation during the Commission meetings

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;

RECALLING that Article 3, paragraph 1 (a), sub-paragraphs (i), (iv), (v), (viii), and (ix), Article 8 and Article 19, paragraphs 3 (c) and 5 of the Convention recognize the efficient, non-discriminatory and participative interaction of Members and CNCs for the conservation and management of the fishing resources, as well as the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

NOTING THAT the SPRFMO Convention Area’s most representative fishery zone borders the EEZ of the countries of central and south America, whose communities are characterized by their Spanish mother language and their condition as developing States, requiring to better understand the work of the Commission and better participate in the joint work, as stated in Article 19, paragraph 3 (c) of the Convention, being paragraph 5 of the same Article an unequivocal expression of the length of such effort to ensure effective participation of developing States in the work of the Commission;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the principles of non-discrimination and full participation of the States that share interests in the fishing resources in the High Seas in the International Law, as they are reflected in article 119.3 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and in article 8.3 of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

DESIRING to adopt effective administrative measures aiming to strengthen the work of the Commission;

ADOPTS the following Administrative Measure:

1. For the purposes of this measure, “official communications” are the communications issued by the Executive Secretary or by the Members and CNCs whose contents may be relevant for decision-making, information and/or compliance purposes and which are regarded of the common interest for the Commission’s work.

2. For the purposes of this measure, “Commission meetings” are virtual, in-person or hybrid meetings convened by the Chairperson appointed by the Commission, which are held for analyzing, exchanging views or deciding on the matters of the Commission, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure in force.
3. All relevant official communications shall be transmitted to Members and CNCs in both English and Spanish languages, and simultaneous interpretation English and Spanish shall be available to all Commission meetings.
4. The Executive Secretary is hereby authorized to seek and hire the translation and interpretation services required, consistent with this administrative measure.
5. The Commission shall allocate in the annual budget the necessary funds for the English and Spanish translation and interpretation services needed for the official communications and Commission Meetings.