



COMM 12 - Report ANNEX 10a

Statement of Belize to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

Belize thanks the Chair and the members of the Jack Mackerel Working Group for their hard work and flexibility in achieving consensus in adopting this conservation and management measure for Jack Mackerel.

In 2013, this Commission adopted a management measure for Jack Mackerel which established a TAC of 360,000 metric tons. Belize was allocated 1145 tons under this measure, 10% of which was transferred to Chile consistent with the provisions of the measure. Our effective allocation represented 0.2864% of the 2013 TAC. Regrettably, circumstances prevented Belize from continuous participation in this Commission and its allocation was redistributed the benefit of the participants in this fishery.

At the 11th annual meeting of this Commission, Belize requested an allocation of Jack Mackerel consistent with its historical allocation. Instead, it was given an allocation as a new entrant. This year, Belize tabled a proposal which, among other things, sought to reinstate its historical fishing rights for this resource. This proposal was not accepted, and instead, Belize's historical catches was recognized by a marginal increase from the 2023 allocation at a level of 0.1060% of the 2024 TAC.

Recognizing and appreciating the difficult discussions and deliberations undertaken in the Jack Mackerel Working Group, Belize reluctantly agreed to support this allocation. While we did not block the consensus in adopting this CMM, Belize does not consider this allocation to be equitable as it does not adequately recognize Belize's historical rights or development aspirations. We would like the Members of this Commission to note the sacrifice Belize has made in the spirit of cooperation and compromise. Notwithstanding, Belize reserves the right to seek greater equity in its allocation of Jack Mackerel the next time this matter comes up for review.

Thank you Chair!