



COMM 12 - Report ANNEX 10c

Statement of Vanuatu to the 12th Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

Vanuatu Statement on Jack Mackerel Allocation Agreement

Vanuatu would like to express its thanks to the Chair of the Working Group for his outstanding work in guiding our negotiations to a successful conclusion. This was achieved as a result of his transparent and inclusive approach taken to all delegations.

One observation on the substance of the allocation agreement is with regard to the unallocated quota. A reduction in the size of the unallocated quota from 9.02% to 8.59% is an important element of the allocation agreement. It is important to recognise that the unallocated quota is not in the nature of a TAC. Rather, it is simply an amount of quota set aside by the Commission to buffer the effects of catches taken in national jurisdictions that are not included in the Convention Area. In this respect, the buffer should reflect the long-term average of catches in national jurisdictions, not year to year catch variations.

Looking at the series of catches in the relevant national jurisdiction from 2013 to 2023, it is evident that the average catch is 92,000 tonnes. This is equal to 7.38% of the TAC. The current unallocated quota is well above this level. The agreed 2024 allocation rebalances this buffer, moving it down to 8.59% which is still well above the long-term average catch level in the relevant national jurisdiction.