



14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Panama City, Panama, 2 to 6 March 2026

COMM14 – Report

ANNEX 9a Opening remarks by Mr Eduardo Carrasquilla

General Administrator of ARAP

(originally delivered in Spanish)

Honourable Mr James Brown, Executive Secretary of SPRFMO,
Chairpersons of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,
Members, observers, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Panama, it is a great honour to welcome you to our country on the occasion of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.

Panama, a country with a strong maritime vocation and a meeting point between oceans and regions, is pleased to host this annual meeting and to receive the delegations joining us today in a land where the sea forms part of our history, our economy, and our identity.

The annual meeting of the Commission represents the central moment of SPRFMO's work, as it is in this forum that the year's progress is reviewed and where Members adopt decisions that guide the present and future management of fisheries in the South Pacific. The strength of this Organisation rests on that capacity for consensus-building and shared responsibility.

The challenges facing marine resources require balanced decisions and effective cooperation, so that fisheries may continue to generate opportunities while preserving the integrity of the ecosystems on which they depend. Maintaining this balance is the task that brings this Commission together.

As host country and a Member of SPRFMO, Panama reaffirms its commitment to dialogue and to the implementation of the decisions adopted in this forum, convinced that stable and predictable fisheries governance benefits coastal States, fishing nations, industry, and future generations.

During this week, we will address matters of great importance, and the progress we achieve will depend on our ability to listen to one another, understand our respective realities, and build solutions that reflect the common interest. Consensus, reached through compromise, remains the most solid foundation for durable decisions.

Panama reiterates its readiness to support the conduct of a productive and constructive meeting and invites all delegations to participate actively in the work of the Commission, strengthening the spirit of cooperation that underpins this Organisation.

Welcome to the Republic of Panama. We wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful annual meeting in our country.