



9TH MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Held virtually, 26 January to 05 February 2021 (NZDT)

COMM 9 – Report ANNEX 8b Statement of the Republic of Ecuador



ECUADOR'S STATEMENT

Ecuador initiated the current 9th MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION with high expectations about what could be achieved in order to improve the Convention's management and monitoring system for Jumbo Flying Squid fishery.

Our innovative proposal to have 100% coverage of observers on board, or at least 20% within the first 3 years, would **not only** contribute to provide information for scientists about the behavior of the resources, but it has also been proven that their presence helps to identify non-compliance and IUU fisheries cases. In the same manner, it would maintain the traceability of the jumbo flying squid fishery products. All of this would contribute valuable **inputs** for the scientific investigation to take the best decisions in a near future.

Having high coverage of observers on board is not a novelty, in fact, several fisheries count on them on other RFMOs. **And even** this matter could generate international recognition to the SPRFMO by becoming a forerunner of this measure on the jumbo flying squid fishery.

Similarly, the proposal about transshipments in ports would contribute to the best regulation of the resource, and to reduce the fishing effort on jumbo flying squid.

However, we regret the position of some delegations, of whom, we feel a lack of interest to take control and conservation measures.

Additionally, we consider that on the current virtual communication format, does not provide the facility to broadly discuss these issues. For which we are sure that, in the upcoming year, these will be clearly understood and can be adopted.

Ecuador is not withdrawing its proposals; we are only postponing their **addressing** for the next year. We will continue to discuss the proposals with the objective of enhancing your understanding, and to reach the objectives of this Commission, following the principles established by the United Nations Organization through its instruments.

Regarding the specific case about the transshipment proposal, Ecuador has decided to separate the template and to pass it to a working paper, with the objective of finding consensus for its approval, and requests that only the implementation the format suggested by the Executive Secretariat is considered, so that the recommendation of the Scientific committee of 2020 is fulfilled.

Ecuador also requests that its two proposals would be addressed and analyzed by the Scientific Committee Meeting in 2021.

Finally, we encourage the Member States to take advantage of the period that separates us with the upcoming meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Commission, to carefully review the spirit of the proposals presented by Ecuador, in order to resume, with greater understanding and better spirit, these important issues. That allows us to reach Agreements for effective self-regulation, adequate monitoring and appropriate scientific information for the benefit of the jumbo flying squid fishery and thus meet one of the objectives of this Convention.



Let's remember that the world is watching our performance.

The Ecuadorian Delegation requests, Mr. Chair, that our statement is included in the minutes of the final report.

February 3, 2021