

## 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

*Panama City, Panama, 24 to 27 February 2026*

### CTC13 – Doc 13

#### Applications for Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party

*Secretariat*

#### 1. Summary and recommendations

SPRFMO currently has two active Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs), whose participation in SPRFMO is governed by Decision 02-2018 (Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties):

- Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and
- Republic of Liberia

The two CNC applications received for 2026 are provided as annexes to this document:

- Annex 1. Curaçao – Application for renewal of CNC status, received on 11 November 2025.
- Annex 2. Liberia – Revised application for renewal of CNC status, received on 23 December 2025 (revised on 11 January 2026).

CTC is requested to:

- **Assess** the two (2) renewal applications for CNC status.
- **Provide recommendations and technical advice** to the Commission which considers inter alia:
  - a) whether the CNC application includes all information required under paragraph 3;
  - b) in the case of renewal, the record of compliance of the applicant with the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;
  - c) the applicant's record of responding to any IUU activities by vessels flying its flag that have been brought to its attention, in accordance with Article 27 of the Convention;
  - d) as appropriate, the record of compliance of the applicant with conservation and management measures of other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs);
  - e) in the case of applications for renewal of CNC status, whether the applicant is meeting all paragraph 12 requirements for CNC.

#### 2. Background

Under paragraph 3 of Decision 02-2018, non-Members seeking CNC status are required to submit a written application containing specific information, including details on fishing activities, compliance systems, voluntary financial contribution, and willingness to cooperate with SPRFMO measures.

By the deadline of 26 December 2025, the Secretariat received two applications for renewal of CNC status, which were circulated to Members via letter G01-2026\_rev1.

Following a review of the applications, the Secretariat requested that Liberia revise its submission due to references to outdated Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). Liberia subsequently submitted a corrected version on 11 January 2026.



To : SPRFMO Secretariat  
Attn. of Mr. James Brown  
Executive Secretary  
Level 26 Plimmer Towers  
Wellington 6011  
New Zealand  
e-mail: [jbrown@sprfmo.int](mailto:jbrown@sprfmo.int)

Date: November 5, 2025

Contact person  
Ramon Chong

E-mail  
[ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw](mailto:ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw)

Your letter dated

Case number

Topic:

**Renewal of Cooperating Non-  
Member status of SPRFMO  
for 2026**

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Dear Mr.Brown,

The Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao would like to express to the distinguished membership of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) its interest in renewing Curaçao's status as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of your Organization.

Curaçao takes pride in its partnerships with regional fisheries management organizations and the contribution they make to the preservation of the long-term health of our oceans. We approach these partnerships transparently: always willing to engage, always striving to improve our performance.

In keeping with Decision 2-2018 regarding the participation of CNPC's:

- a. Our main interest for the year 2026 is to continue as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and operate our carrier vessels in the SPRFMO Convention Area;
- b. We are a committed to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag and fishing in the Convention Area and, to the greatest extent possible, its nationals, comply with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;
- c. We are explicit committed to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection; full data on its historical fisheries in the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
- d. All the data and information Members of the Commission are required will be submitted, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission;



- e. We are therefore committed to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. And we also ensure that carrier vessels flying our flag in the Convention Area comply with all pertinent SPRFMO provisions and measures. We will provide all the required information and statements should any compliance issues arise;
- f. We are fully committed to deliver any further relevant information as determined by the Commission;
- g. We will also make another voluntary financial contribution, pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission and corresponding to the amount applicable should we become a Member to SPRFMO, in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Commission”.

In closing, we look forward to our continued engagement and therefore hope to receive a favorable response to this request.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ramon Chong  
*Chairman International Fisheries Commission*

CC.:

- Minister of Economic Development;
- Members of the International Fisheries Commission





Republic of Liberia

**NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (NaFAA)**

P. O. Box 1384  
Bushrod Island, Monrovia, Liberia



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Office of the Acting Director General

RL/NaFAA/ ADG-1145/'25

December 20, 2025

Mr. James Brown, Executive Secretary  
SPRFMO Secretariat  
P.O. Box 3797  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

**Subject: LIBERIA'S COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY APPLICATION**

Dear Mr. Brown:

The purpose of this letter is to request Liberia's continued participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO). Liberia remains committed to its obligation as a CNCP and the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by SPRFMO.

In accordance with provisions set out in Decision 2-2018 (*Rules for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties*), Liberia is submitting the following information in support of its request:

**1. Reason for seeking renewal of CNCP status:**

Liberia is seeking continued status as a CNCP because Liberia has a number of carrier vessels that are participating in transshipment activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

**2. Commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of CMMs adopted by the Commission:**

Liberia commits to fully cooperate in the implementation of CMMs adopted by the Commission and will continue to ensure that its vessels comply with CMMs including, but not limited to:

- ❖ CMM 01-2025 Trachurus murphyi
- ❖ CMM 02-2025 Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data
- ❖ CMM 04-2025 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out IUU Fishing
- ❖ CMM 05-2023 Commission Record of Vessels Authorized to Fish in the SPRFMO Area
- ❖ CMM 06-2023 Vessel Monitoring System in the SPRFMO Convention Area
- ❖ CMM 07-2025 Minimum Standards of Inspection in Port
- ❖ CMM 10-2020 Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme in the SPRFMO Area



- ❖ CMM 11-2023 High Sea Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the SPRFMO Area
- ❖ CMM 12-2024 Regulation of Transshipment and Other Transfer Activities

**3. An explicit commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspections; full data on historical fisheries in the Convention Area:**

Liberia commits to accepting high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on boarding and inspections in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Liberia has provided for previous years, and will continue to provide to the Secretariat full and complete data on historical transshipment information, including names of vessels, species and total quantities transshipped.

**4. All the data and information that members of the Commission are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission:**

Liberia has consistently submitted transshipment data and other information members are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission.

**5. Any further relevant information as determined by the Commission:**

Liberia will provide relevant information as determined by the Commission.

**6. A statement of intent to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate...pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention:**

Liberia intends to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate with what would be assessed and pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention.

Recently, when some Liberia-flagged vessels were identified for failing to transmit VMS positional data to the SPRFMO Secretariat, an Action Plan was developed by Liberia to address the issue, and the plan is currently being implemented. There has been no recurrence of the issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr.  
Acting Director General

