

The logo features a blue background with a pattern of fish swimming in the water. The text "South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

1st Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee

Manta, Ecuador, 27-31 January 2014

CTC-01-04

Application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status by Colombia

DAESOM



AUNAP
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DE ACUICULTURA Y PESCA

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Mrs **PAULA CABALLERO**
Economic, Social and Environmental Director
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Palacio San Carlos
Calle 10 No. 5-51
Bogotá D.C.
COLOMBIA

REFERENCE: Description of the Request made to the SPRFMO to get the status of a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party – Colombia

Dear Madam Director,

Firstly, I would like to highlight that Colombia has diligently been taking place in the establishment process of the “*South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization*” – SPRFMO from almost its very beginning. In addition, the “*Second Session of the Preparatory Conference for the establishment of the SPRFMO's Commission*” was held in Cali, Colombia, between 24th and 28th January 2011, being addressed, assisted and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this concern, and from a technical perspective, it has repeatedly been emphasised the importance of taking part in the SPRFMO as a Colombian favourable strategy. As a matter of fact, holding an international meeting, as it has earlier mentioned, ratifies the country's tangible intention of being full part of this Regional Fisheries Management Organisation – RFMO. In addition, it is stated that Colombia has been a signatory of the SPRFMO since 16th March, 2010, although it has not been ratified yet.

Additionally, and considering an economic fishery's standpoint, the SPRFMO is one of the fewest Regional Fisheries Management Organisation – RFMO worldwide with the largest jurisdictional area in terms of international waters, duly authorised and approved by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO, and its own Convention. As a result, the SPFRMO comprises a wide variety of marine fishery resources that unfortunately Colombia does not take advantage of, and this would be perfectly the appropriate time for the national industry to start focusing on it. At present, the national industry makes a sustainable use of merely tuna fish mainly distributed along the Exclusive Economic Zone – EEZ, and High Seas.



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Consequently on the basis of the information provided, and as a General Director of the National Fishery Authority – AUNAP, I would like to stress the national interest of getting involved in the fishery resources covered by this RFMO, and look for the right path to acquire an annual catch quota for them, regardless the fact the country does not have up to now an active fleet fishing in the area encompassed by the SPFRMO.

In other words, the steps proposed are not different from the ones taken in the past concerning other RFMOs. For instance, Costa Rica did not have any tuna vessel fishing in the “*Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area*” – CYRA by the time they joined the IATTC. On the same hand, Colombia had just decided to begin the process of a National Law Project to be a State Member of this regional fishery arrangement much later than the moment its nationals started to fish in this Commission Area.

Finally, and while the process of ratification makes progress, please let me underline that it is worth it to keep the status of a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party protecting from that position the country's interests currently embraced by the SPRFMO.

Yours sincerely,

JULIÁN BOTERO ARANGO
General Director – AUNAP

Drafted by: Javier Plata, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Officer, AUNAP

Reviewed by: Vladimir Puentes Granada, Chief of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Office, AUNAP

Approved by: Martha Lucy Cubillos Soto, Secretary-General, AUNAP





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Dr ROBÍN ALLEN

Executive Secretary

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

SPRFMO Secretariat

PO Box 379

Wellington 6140

NEW ZEALAND

REFERENCE: *Commitment concerning the search for national legal and technical resources under the Colombian Law to make fishing Colombian vessels comply with the SPRFMO's Commission boarding and inspections requirements*

Dear Mr Executive Secretary,

Mainly, and for the purpose of this document, I would certainly like to highlight that the Colombian National Authority for Aquaculture and Fisheries – AUNAP, as the country's fisheries authority has been committed to *“search for the national legal and technical resources under the Colombian Constitution and Law to make fishing vessels flying a Colombian flag and fishing in the Convention Area resources comprised by the Commission accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection, once they have been adopted.”*

In addition, to *“provide 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, as well as all the data and information members of the Commission are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the SPRFMO's Commission. Lastly, to make available any further relevant information as determined by the Commission”.*

Yours sincerely,

JULIÁN BOTERO

General Director – AUNAP

Drafted by: Javier Plata, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Officer, AUNAP

Reviewed by: Vladimir Puentes Granada, Chief of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Office, AUNAP

Approved by: Martha Lucy Cubillos Soto, Secretary-General, AUNAP





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Dr **ROBÍN ALLEN**

Executive Secretary

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

SPRFMO Secretariat

PO Box 379

Wellington 6140

NEW ZEALAND

REFERENCE: Commitment Concerning Colombian Comprehensive Cooperation in the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the SPRFMO's Commission in the Convention Area

Dear Mr Executive Secretary,

Fundamentally, and for the purpose of this document, I would firmly like to point out that the Colombian National Authority for Aquaculture and Fisheries – AUNAP, as the country's fisheries authority is committed to *“cooperate comprehensively in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that fishing vessels flying a Colombian flag and fishing in the Convention Area and, to the greatest extent possible, Colombian nationals comply with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the SPRFMO's Commission”*.

In accordance with the above stated commitment, and in order to take appropriate enforcement actions, the technical directions at the National Authority for Aquaculture and Fisheries – AUNAP have got the compulsory training to provide the necessary evidence, documents and information to confirm the National Government is taken such conservation and management measures in the SPRFMO's Area.

Yours sincerely,

JULIÁN BOTERO

General Director – **AUNAP**

Drafted by: Javier Plata, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Officer, AUNAP

Reviewed by: Vladimir Puentes Granada, Chief of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Office, AUNAP

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