

9TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Held virtually, 18-22 January 2022

CTC9-Doc12

Applications for CNCP Status for 2022

Secretariat

SPRFMO currently has three active Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs):

- Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Republic of Liberia, and
- The Republic of Panama.

In October 2021, the Secretariat contacted those three CNCPs with an invitation to become full Members of the SPRFMO Commission or to renew their current CNCP status (Ref: DC78-2021, DC79-2021, and DC80-2021).

In addition to the three above mentioned States, pursuant to Decision 2-2018 ([Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties](#)) Paragraph 1, in October 2021, the Secretariat received a CNCP status application from the Republic of Belize.

The Secretariat therefore received three CNCP status renewal requests and one new CNCP status application, all of which are contained in the annexes to this document as follows:

- Annex 1. Curaçao, CNCP status renewal application received on 08 September 2021
- Annex 2. Liberia, CNCP status renewal application received on 30 October 2021
- Annex 3. Panama, CNCP status renewal application received on 19 November 2021
- Annex 4. Belize, CNCP status application received on 29 October 2021

As per paragraph 4 of Decision 02-2018 (Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties), CTC9 is requested to:

- Assess the three (3) renewal applications for CNCP status, and one (1) new CNCP status application, and provide recommendations and technical advice to the Commission which considers *inter alia*:
 - a) whether the CNCP 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 CNCP status, whether the applicant is meeting all paragraph 12 requirements for CNCP.



MINISTERIE VAN
ECONOMISCHE ONTWIKKELING

SPRFMO Secretariat
Attn. of Mr. Craig Loveridge,
Executive Secretary
Level 26 Plimmer Towers
Wellington 6011
New Zealand

Date:
31 August 2021

Contact person:
Stephen Mambi

E-mail address:
stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw

Re: Renewal of Cooperating Non-Member status of SPRFMO for 2022
Our number:

Our number:

Dear Mr. Loveridge,

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 our 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 CNCP's 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. As such, we also accept high seas boarding and inspections.

Our main interest for the year 2022 is to continue as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and operate our carrier vessels in the SPRFMO Convention Area. Given the continuing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we prefer to postpone any decision about a possible full membership to next year.

In the meantime, we will gladly continue to submit all required data and information in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission. We will provide all the required information and statements should any compliance issues arise. And 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 closing, Dear Sir, please accept the assurances of our high esteem and consideration. We look forward to our continued engagement and therefore hope to receive a favorable response to this request.

Sincerely,

Xavier C. Prens

Chairman of the International Fishery Commission of Curaçao
Secretary General of the Ministry of Economic Development



Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (NaFAA)

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



Office of the Director General

Email: emglassco@nafaa.gov.lr

RL/NaFAA/DG/L-386/'21

October 25, 2022

Sothorn Pacific Regional Management Fisheries Organization (SPRFMO)
 Attn.: Mr. Craig Loveridge, Acting Executive Secretary
 P.O. Box 3797
 Wellington 6140, New Zealand

RE: LIBERIA - COOPERATING PARTY STATUS

Dear Mr. Loveridge:

The purpose of this letter is to request Liberia's continued participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the 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's seeks 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:

- 01-2021 Trachurus murphyi
- 02-2021 Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data
- 04-2020 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out IUU Fishing Activities...
- 05-2021 Establishment of the Commission Record of Vessels Authorized...
- 06-2020 Establishment of Vessel Monitoring System in the Convention Area
- 07-2021 Minimum Standards of Inspection in Port

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- 10-2020 Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme...
- 11-2015 Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the SPRFMO Convention Area
- 12-2020 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 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:

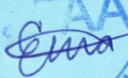
Liberia will provide relevant information as determined by the Commission.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,


Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco
Director General

**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**



Panama, November 15th, 2021.

AG-809-21

Dear Mr. Loveridge:

The Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP) on behalf of the Republic of Panama, in response to the letter Ref: DC79-2021 dated on October 21st, 2021, regarding the invitation to become a Contracting Party of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) Convention or renewing our CNCP Status in accordance to the rules for CNCPs Para. 3, informs the Organization that, on October 28th, 2021, Panama's General Assembly approved the Law Project No. 666, which approves the SPRFMO Convention and currently, said document is under the review of the President of the Republic for its sanction and subsequent publication. Once the publication is completed we would require to comply with the international law requirements to formally adopt the Convention and in this instance we would formally apply for the Contracting Party status before the Organization and subject to your considerations.

Recognizing that the foregoing process of becoming a Contracting Party, will require the completion of a national and international formal procedure and until this ensues, Panama hereby requests the renewal of our status before the Organization as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, in accordance with the following:

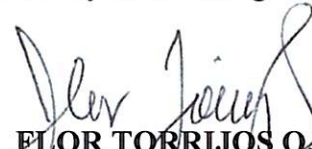
- a. Our interest of remaining a CNCP and continuing with our operational fleet for supporting fishing vessels in the Convention Area;
- b. Based on our commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure compliance of Panamanian fishing vessels with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;
- c. The commitment of accepting high seas boarding and inspections, in accordance with the Commission's procedures providing all historical information as needed;

Mr. Loveridge
AG-809-2021
 Page 2 of 2

- d. The submission of all the data required by the Commission, in accordance with the standards adopted;
- e. Cooperate with SPRFMO and other international partners in the fight against the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities to prevent, deter and eliminate the IUU fishing activities, one of the most serious threats faced by the biodiversity of the world's ocean;
- f. Also Panama intends to take on voluntary financial contributions, pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Commission;
- g. Finally, provide any further relevant information as determined by SPRFMO;

Once Panama has duly completed all the corresponding steps to approve and adopt the Convention we will opportunely submit this information before the Commission, in order to promote our application as Contracting Party.

From the General Administrator with my most distinguished consideration.


FLOR TORRIJOS O.
 General Administrator



Mr. CRAIG LOVERIDGE
 Acting Executive Secretary
 South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
 Wellington 6140, New Zealand

REF: HSFU-RFMO-V10-2021(61) Vol.1

28th October 2021

Mr. Craig Loveridge
Executive Secretary
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
P.O Box 3797 Wellington 6140
New Zealand

SUBJECT: BELIZE'S APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS

Dear Mr. Loveridge,
Greetings from Belize.

The Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, on behalf of the Government of Belize hereby officially submits its Application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Status with the SPRFMO.

Belize wishes to have a viable and meaningful presence in the Convention area within the limits set by the Commission. We believe that our application has addressed all the issues required by Decision 2-2018 on Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties. Belize avails itself to providing any additional data as may be required in support of its application.

We hope that the Commission will consider our Application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status and we look forward to a favorable response at the up coming meeting of the SPRFMO in 2022.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Valarie Lanza
Director of High Seas Fisheries



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**Belize's Application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)
28th October 2021**

Giving effect to the SPRFMO Decision 2-2018 on Rules for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Belize wishes to officially apply for the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party and hereby submits its application. In this regard, it wishes to inform of the following in compliance with paragraph 3 of Decision 2-2018.

- a. Belize has a historical presence in the SPRFMO having acceded to the SPRFMO Convention on 11th April 2011. Belize does not have any vessels operating in this area; however, it wishes to introduce vessels to increase the fishing opportunities for its high seas fishing fleet. Therefore, in compliance with the relevant requirements of the Commission, and to promote sustainable fishing, it hereby submits its application for Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status.
- b. Belize confirms its commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that its flagged vessels that will fish 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.

In this regard, Belize advises the Commission that this commitment is part of our overall policy to comply with the requirements of all RFMOs where its vessels are present. This is evidenced by the fact that:

- Belize is a Contracting party to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- Belize is an active member of the following organizations: The United Nations (U.N), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Organizacion del Sector Pequero y Atlantico Centro Occidental (OSPESCA).
- Belize has issued instruments of adherence/acceptance to:
 - The 1993 FAO "Compliance Agreement"
 - The 1995 U.N. Fish Stocks Agreement
 - The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- Belize adopted a revised and modern High Seas Fisheries Act in 2013 which allows for the full implementation of all conservation and management measures through legally binding

circulars; and is currently in the process of reviewing this Act with a view to update and further modernize it.

- In addition to the adoption of its revised Act, Belize adopted its High Seas Fishing Licensing, Sanction and Monitoring Control and Surveillance Regulations in 2014.
 - In 2014 it also adopted a National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing and is currently in the process of reviewing this Plan with a view to update it.
 - Belize adopted a Fleet Policy in 2014 as a measure to effectively manage its fleet's expansion. This Policy was revised and updated in June 2018.
 - Belize launched its Fisheries Monitoring Centre in 2014 which operates under the corporate structure of the BHSFU.
 - Belize adopted its National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Sharks on the High Seas, and it is currently working on a revised plan to incorporate its domestic fisheries.
 - Belize adopted its National Inspection Plan for its High Seas Fleet in 2015. This Plan was revised and updated in 2018.
 - Belize adopted its National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Long Line Fisheries in 2016.
 - Belize issued Sea Turtle Handling Guidelines in high seas fisheries to all vessel owners and operators in May 2016 and later updated these guidelines in 2021.
 - Belize implemented its observer program in 2014 which is operated by the well-established and experienced observer service provider, Capricorn Fisheries.
 - Belize adopted an Observer Policy for the implementation of a National Observer Program.
 - Belize adopted a Licensing Policy in 2018 to further support its High Seas Licensing Regulation.
 - Belize recently adopted an Administrative Sanction and Assessment Policy in 2021 to guide and add transparency to its High Seas Sanctions Regulations.
- c. Belize confirms its commitment to accept the high seas boarding and inspection scheme, in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection.
- d. Belize commits to comply with the requirements for the submission of all data and information in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission for all its Members and Cooperating Non-Members.
- e. Belize has no compliance issues with the Commission as this is its first application for Cooperating Non-Member status. Notwithstanding, we wish to highlight that whilst Belize was a Contracting Party, it was always compliant with the conservation and management measures of the SPRFMO, except for its outstanding membership dues. The non-payment of these dues was a result of Belize's economic situation at the time which has since improved. The Authority responsible for high seas fishing was also under-going the process of Belize's government reassuming control from its private concession. Belize has made significant changes to its corporate structure and is now prepared to settle all outstanding dues with the Commission.
- f. Belize avails itself to provide any other relevant information as may be required by the Commission in consideration of this application.
- g. Belize hereby confirms its commitment to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate with the level that would be assessed as a member, pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Commission.

Belize further confirms its commitment to the following in accordance with Paragraph 12 of Decision 2-2018

- a. To comply with all conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission; submit all data that is required by Members of the Commission in a timely manner and in accordance with the format and standards adopted by the Commission.
- b. To inform the Commission annually of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels with the Commission's conservation and management measures.
- c. To respond in a timely manner to alleged violations of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and any IUU activities of vessels flying its flag, as required by a member of the Commission, or determined by the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the Commission and communicate to the member(s) making the request and to the Commission, the actions it has taken against the vessel(s) in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of the Convention.

The above compliance and commitments are part of Belize's policy to comply with the requirements of all RFMOs where it has a presence.

As a small developing coastal State, Belize is seeking to have a meaningful fishing presence in the Southern Pacific Ocean region within the limits set for each species managed by the SPRFMO. Belize is satisfied that this comprehensive submission has addressed all the issues required in support of its application for Cooperating Non-Member status in the SPRFMO; Notwithstanding, Belize avails itself to the Secretariat and/or the Commission if any further information is required.