



ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
Faleata Sports Complex, Apia, SAMOA
1 - 5 December 2014

El Salvador - Declaration to reaffirming interest in becoming a Member to the WCPFC

WCPFC11-2014 -OP16
01 December 2014
1830

Submitted by El Salvador

El Salvador – Declaration to reaffirming interest in becoming a Member to the WCPFC

El Salvador thanks all Members of the Commission for renewing its status of Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) for 2015, and at the same times expresses its appreciation to the Samoan Government and its people for hosting this meeting and for the attentions provided to all delegates.

El Salvador wishes to reaffirming its interest in becoming a Member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), expressed in the past and recently acknowledged during the 10th Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC10).

After several years holding the status of CNM, El Salvador considers that now is the time to move forward and become full Member. As a developing State, with an economy highly vulnerable and dependent, El Salvador, like many Small Island Developing States (SIDs) Members to this Commission, has put its hopes for improving the standards of life of its people in tuna fisheries, recognizing it as a valid path for economic developing. In the Eastern Pacific Ocean, El Salvador shows a clean record of compliance with all obligations under the relevant treaties pertaining the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program totally fulfilled.

In the area of this Commission, El Salvador has been a CNM in good standing and has been making on-time monetary contributions to this organization for the past 5 years.

The intention of becoming Member to the WCPFC does not imply an increase of its presence in terms of number of vessels in the Convention Area, which have been fishing for a fairly long time, complying technically and economically with the Commission, *e.g.*, 3 coastal States issue fishing licenses to Salvadorian vessels on an annual basis. This is to emphasize the commitment of El Salvador not to increase the number of vessels flying its flag in the Pacific Ocean as a whole, since they are recorded in both vessels registries: the IATTC's and the WCPFC's. The objective of El Salvador is to identify and pursue new avenues for cooperation with the SIDs, both at the governmental and the private sector levels, seeking the establishment of mutually beneficial, longstanding relationships.

Finally, El Salvador respectfully asks the Commission to consider its case individually on its own historical merits.

El Salvador would be honored to be invited by this 11th Regular Session to join the Commission and thanks all Members for their consideration of the Salvadorian case.

Apia, Samoa, 02 December, 2014.