

STATEMENT OF COLOMBIA TO COC

As regards the request by the European Union, allow me to make the following considerations:

- For 2020, Colombia had presented the implementation of an operational plan to the Commission including four Colombian-flagged fishing vessels to conduct activities within the framework of the status approval at the end of 2019;
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operational plan could not be implemented, and none of the abovementioned fishing vessels conducted activities in Commission waters;
- Consequently, Colombia was unable to conduct transfers of fishing capacity from the Pacific to the Atlantic during the 2020 period;
- It is of particular interest for Colombia to implement the operational plan presented for 2021, once the requested status is ratified.

Owing to the above, Colombia ratifies:

Commitment of the Government of Colombia to the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT

The Government of Colombia, through the National Authority of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca, AUNAP), remains committed to implement the necessary administrative measures for Colombian fishing vessels to comply with the current regulations adopted by ICCAT. Colombia has experience in managing Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and each year implements management and conservation measures for its fishing vessels operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Development, conservation and management measures adopted by Colombia within the framework of IATTC include time-area closures for the tropical tuna fisheries, FAD usage restrictions, management measures for the conservation of sharks, rays and chimaeras, protection plans for sea turtles and the International Agreement for the Protection of Dolphins (*Acuerdo Internacional para la Protección de los Delfines, APICD*), among others. Colombia undertakes to comply with ICCAT's management and conservation measures and thereon will inform the Secretariat of the administrative actions taken to guarantee, that Colombian vessels and foreign vessels with access agreement in Colombian waters, comply with conservation and management measures of the Commission.

Commitment of the Government of Colombia to provide fisheries information in the ICCAT area

The Government of Colombia is aware that is important to provide information on catch and fishing effort of the species under ICCAT mandate. Today, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority does not only account with the capacity to monitor the compliance of national and international fishery regulations, but also has an international affairs area that is responsible for communications with different RFMOs such as IATTC and ICCAT and provides the necessary information to these organizations.

In summary, Colombia is in a position to guarantee the compliance of requirements established by ICCAT and, therefore, we have decided to request the renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting status.