

EL SALVADOR'S STATEMENT TO THE PLENARY ON PANEL 1

My country regrets that Panel 1 was unable reach consensus on the adoption of an extension to 2021 of the measures contained in Recommendation 19-02. We are hopeful that within the Commission, proposals can be built in line with the commitment to the effective and efficient management of tropical tunas. To this end, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the principles which should guide the discussions:

- a) Build the best scientific evidence available from quality data, which is verifiable and satisfactory, from all fisheries and analyzes of all options;
- b) Ensure that, when the precautionary approach is implemented, excessive burdens are not imposed on fishermen;
- c) Develop exploitation and management mechanisms in accordance with the principles of international fisheries law, consistent with due process, non-discrimination and equal participation, taking into account the specific needs of developing CPCs.

In 2020, my country reduced its catches by approximately 40% compared with previous years and this reduction is unfair given the efforts of a lesser scale required from other participants in the fishery.

Recommendation 19-02, for 2021, establishes a long-term closure (3 months) and the limitation of FADs (paragraphs 28, 29 and 30) for FAD-associated fleets, excluding the catch limit. Without an analysis of the scientific impact, all sacrifices could be excessive and discriminatory.

In the search for consensus, my country has not objected to the coexistence of input and output measures in the context of a precautionary approach, provided that their impacts are properly analyzed by the SCRS and that the Commission receives quick guidance on their efficiency and productivity. However, it is true that in the absence of these studies, it is does not seem fair or balanced that the same limit that was established for 2020 be extended to 2021 and, at the same time, extend FAD closure to 3 months or further reduce FADs per vessel.

Notwithstanding the above, Mr. Chair, and convinced that we must continue to work towards building consensus within a holistic and measured approach, El Salvador reiterates that it could accompany the initial proposal of the Chair of Panel 1, adjusting, as other CPCs have proposed, to 2021, all the measures that they implemented in 2020, all in conjunction with the adjustments of the workplan for 2021, allowing more quality time to this process, in particular to explore the alternatives stated in paragraph 66 of Rec. 19-02.