

Original: Spanish

STATEMENT BY PANAMA TO PLENARY

The Republic of Panama thanks the Secretariat and the Chair of Panel 1 for the efforts undertaken despite the situation we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As regards the document under review labelled PA1_503A/2020 which contemplates the possibility of adopting a recommendation that allows to extend to 2021 the provisions agreed in Recommendation 19-02, it is necessary to complete the adoption, with the undertaking to allow the parties some leeway to carry out the efforts required to establish a long-term recovery program.

Likewise, we maintain our disagreement regarding the distribution of the bigeye tuna catch limits allocated for 2020. We therefore express the need to revise the proposed bigeye catch limits table for 2020 (PA1_502B), reiterating that we did not agree nor do we agree with the closure of Panel 1 discussions. On the contrary, we consider that this RFMO must continue working to achieve a consensus on the conditions to be followed, which should be more favorable for all.

I would also like to take this occasion to express our concern regarding the limitations of translation of all the communications into the three ICCAT official languages during this special process, since this has hindered broader interaction between members.