



Nº de Oficio. DGPPE.- 06345/170713

July 22, 2013.

*"2013, Año de la Lealtad Institucional y Centenario del Ejército Mexicano"*

**PROFESSOR GLENN HURRY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS  
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN (WCPFC)**

**Dear Sir:**

Pursuant to your communication dated January 30, regarding the renewal to maintain the status of Mexico as a Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Mexico reaffirms its commitments to fully cooperate in the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted in the WCPFC.

For this reason, Mexico respectfully request to the WCPFC the renewal of its CNM status, according with its duties as a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This request is consistent with and guided by the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-11 for CNM and Article 24 of the WCPFC Convention that establishes the duties of the flag states.

As a CNM, Mexico shared the objectives of the WCPFC Convention in order to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the Pacific Ocean. Particularly, Mexico is interested and concern that fisheries in the Pacific Ocean must be managed and conserved for sustainable use, as an integral ecosystem.

Consequently, Mexico reiterates that either our domestic or international policy is focused on promoting the sustainable use of the fisheries resources and the active participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), such as Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It includes a highly satisfactory compliance and commitment of the fishing industry to ensure responsible fisheries.

Our country confers a high priority to the sustainable use of tuna resources in the Pacific Ocean, reason for which Mexico hosted this year the 85<sup>th</sup> IATTC annual meeting and the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).



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In response to the specific consultation, we would like to inform you:

- Complying with the commitments as CNM, and in order to follow-up the participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, Mexico would like to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Northern Committee of the WCPFC, to be held from September 2 to 5, in Fukuoka, Japan
- Regarding the submission of data and information on current operations or activities identified in CMM 2009-11 2(e), such information is not provided because no Mexican fishing vessels operated in the Convention Area, since Mexico was granted the CNM status. However, enclosed to this letter you will find the Annual Report Part I.
- Respecting the financial contribution to the WCPFC for 2012, Mexico would like to express that our national legislation does not contemplate this possibility while Mexico is not a Contracting Party.

Finally, Mexico wishes to reiterate, as a strong promoter of international cooperation, to completely cooperate with WCPFC and its intention to become in a near future, a Contracting Party of the Commission, consistent with Article 35 of the WCPFC Convention.

We would appreciate any comments, suggestions and further requests of information, if needed by the WCPFC.

Please convey our high regards and respects to all the members of the Commission

HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND EVALUATING

CARLOS GABRIEL ENRÍQUEZ MONTES

C.c.p. MARIO GILBERTO AGUILAR SÁNCHEZ.- NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES.-  
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CGEM/ICNR/GXLR/LJTT

\*See previously submitted information added for convenience.

**ANNEX 1**

MEXICO																
HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION AREA																
Year	Type of Vessel	Vessels Active	Fishing Effort: Days Fished	Fishing Area	SPECIES											
					SKIPJACK			YELLOWFIN			BIGEYE			OTHER	TOTAL	
					Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	Catch	CPUE
1983	Purse Seiner	1	14	SouthWest	388	27.71	83	69	4.93	15	11	0.79	2	0	468	33.43
1984	Purse Seiner	5	282	SouthWest	4,262	15.11	65	2,036	7.22	31	302	1.07	5	0	6,600	23.4
	Purse Seiner			SouthWest												
	Purse Seiner			SouthWest												
	Purse Seiner			SouthWest												
	Purse Seiner			SouthWest												

\* Further information available in the SPC and WCPFC year books.

\* CATCH: Catch (tonnes).

\* CPUE: Catch per unit of effort. (tonnes per day fished and searched)

\* During 1975-1991, Mexican fleet did not report tuna discards.

\* Source: Tuna Fishery Year Book 2006, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

\* In those years WCPFC had not been established and the Mexican regulations had a different level of specificity of data required from the vessels.

\* Fishing vessels operating in the area during the 80, were: Tobora, Teacapan, Bonnie, Valerie and Jennifer, and later in the early 90 were: Maria Rossana II and Maria Amalia II.

\* The level of data submissions requested before 1995 was less detailed, resting primarily on the information requirements called by the licensing government, when applicable.

MEXICO								
HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMISSION AREA								
Year	Type of Vessel	Units and catch effort	SPECIES					
			SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE	ALBACORE	BLUE MARLIN	OTHER SPECIES
			Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch
1978	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	33	0	0	0	0
1979	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	41	0	0	0	0
1981	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	21	0	0	0	0
1982	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	70	58	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	50	42	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	49	54	0	0	0	0
1984	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	42	53	0	0	0	0
1985	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	42	0	0	0	0
1986	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	28	42	0	0	0	0
1987	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	47	61	0	0	0	0
1988	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	40	46	0	0	0	0
1989	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	61	59	0	0	0	0
1990	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	33	56	0	0	0	0
1991	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	32	42	0	0	0	0
1992	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	60	0	0	0	0
1993	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	44	58	0	0	0	0
1994	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	56	65	0	0	0	0
1995	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	74	57	0	0	0	0
1996	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	58	63	0	0	0	0
1997	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	70	80	0	0	0	0
1998	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	50	73	0	0	0	0
1999	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	5	0	0	0	0	0
2000	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	18	60	0	0	0	0
2001	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	69	0	0	0	0
2002	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	22	29	0	0	0	0
2003	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	20	20	0	0	0	0
2004	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	27	0	0	0	0
2005	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	24	23	0	0	0	0

\*Further information available in the SPC and WCPFC year books.

\* Source: Annual Coverage of Tuna Fishery data held by The Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) Of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

\*This vessel is not using live bait carried from Mexico.

\*Further and updated information has been requested by GOM.

## ANNEX 3

### **Mexico's Fisheries Management Capabilities and Commitments**

The constitutional President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto has established in the National Development Plan 2013-2018, the objectives, strategies and priorities for the integrated and sustainable development of the country. This framework is based in five priorities, highlighting: “Mexico an Actor with Global Responsibility” and “Prosperous Mexico”.

Also, it has launched the National Campaign against Hunger, which is a strategy of inclusion and national welfare that seeks to ensure food security and nutrition of the 7.4 million Mexicans now living in condition of extreme poverty. Tuna products play a key role in food security.

The Mexican Government has implemented measures in coordination with state and local authorities to develop a number of mechanisms and policies, as well as strategies to ensure the implementation of conservation and management measures taken both at national and internationally level.

In general, fisheries conservation and management measures used in Mexico consist of: technical measures regulating the types of gear used, fish size limits and by-catch reduction; technologies, management measures relating to allowable effort, closed areas, and season closures, catch limits and quotas.

Commercial fishing in the Economic Exclusive Zone of Mexico is managed through a system of permits and concessions. In this way, harvesting is controlled by limits on the number of permits issued and, when required, the use of permanent or temporary closed seasons: fisheries access limitations are complemented with technical measures relating to minimum capture sizes, mesh sizes, etc.

In addition, producers are subjects to comply with the provisions contained in the fisheries Official Mexican Standards, in the terms and conditions applicable to different species for the utilization. Also, the said standards specify, target species, protected species, fishing seasons, authorized allowable catches, systems and its characteristics (methods and equipment), operating conditions, minimum sizes and weight, and if it is the case, a fishing quota, and verification processes.

In the case of tuna, Mexico strictly follows the catch limits and management regulations adopted by the regional fisheries management organizations governing tuna resources in the Pacific and Atlantic coasts (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

The provisions for monitoring and surveillance and the implementation of the legal fisheries instruments are mainly contained in The General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and its Regulations. However, there are other laws which also have direct impact upon fishery activity as Navigation Law, Ports Act, Ecology Balance and Environment Protection General Law, and the Constitution itself, among others.

Mexico has reinforced its monitoring, control and surveillance, mechanisms through the following actions:

- Greater control on permits and concessions granted.
- Selecting and updating the Fishing National Registration Vessel Registry in which, concessions and permits issued to owners are subscribed, when the proper authorizations to perform fishing activities have been obtained.
- Strengthened verification systems for fish products to verify its legal origin: this through, announcement of landings and verification at ports.
- Increasing operations for boarding and Inspection for surveillance in national waters, performed by National Commission for Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA) watercrafts and the Mexican Navy.
- Implementing a Satellite Monitoring System, VMS for all high seas fishing vessels since 2005.
- Continuity of the Observers Program: 100% of the trips which tuna fish and shark fleet perform at the Pacific Ocean have an on board a scientist, as observer. Also, fishing cruisers for tuna fish with long line net at the Gulf of Mexico have an observer on board.
- Fishing Guide. This is an auxiliary tool for fishing matters inspection and surveillance, in order to prevent illegal fishing and fisheries products transportation.

CONAPESCA maintains a National Fishing Registry. Registrations are mandatory for individuals and corporate entities engaged in activities for which they hold licenses, permits or authorizations, with the exceptions of individuals engaged in sport and recreational fishing.

In 1992, Mexico and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized the International Conference for Responsible Fisheries in Cancun. At that Conference, the FAO began the process of formulating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which was negotiated over the next four years and finally agreed in 1995 in Mexico.

Mexico implements the following international instruments: Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks; to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; for the Management of Fishing Capacity and for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Mexico is actively engaged in key international agreements governing the sea and the harvesting of fisheries resources. Mexico is a contracting and active Party to the United Nations of Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Compliance Agreement, fully implementing article VI which facilitates the control of vessels operating in the high seas; the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). Although Mexico is not part to United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), its policies and regulations are consistent with the programmatic objectives of that agreement and actively participates in the meetings of the Parties including the Revision Conference established under UNFSA article 36.

Mexico is a contracting party of two key tuna RFMO's: IATTC and ICCAT, in which decisions of conservation and management measures are made based on the best scientific evidence available.

Our country was host of the 85th Meeting of the IATTC in which it was adopted a tuna conservation resolution with a multi-year temporal closed season for yellowfin tuna, bigeye and skipjack, thus complying the scientific and conservation recommendations of species that was resulted from stock assessment reports. Furthermore, in regard to bluefin tuna, it was adopted a catch quota of 5,000 tons for 2014.

Mexico is an active member of the following organizations: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation mechanism (APEC), the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA), the Fisheries Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Consultant and information Services Center for Fishery Products Marketing in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPESCA), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), among others.

## ANNEX 4

### Mexico's regulatory and institutional Framework

The National Commission for Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA) is a deconcentrated federal body in charge of the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources of the country. This responsibility is also shared with state governments and municipalities.

All Mexican fishery activities, and aspects of the sustainable use of live marine resources are established in the main legal instruments: Political Constitution of the United States of México, National Development Plan 2013-2018, the General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Creation Decree of CONAPESCA (published on the Official Gazette on 5 June 2001), the Operation Rules of the SAGARPA, the Official Mexican Standards (NOM) and the National Fishery and Aquaculture Chart 2012, all of which create the legal framework that rule fisheries and aquaculture activities in the country.

The General Law of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture provides the legal framework to better ensure the sustainable conservation, use and management of fishery resources. It sets up a coordination framework between institutions establishing the management of fisheries and aquaculture between the federation, states and municipalities.

Also the General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture recognizes fishing and aquaculture as activities that strengthen the food security of the country.

The General Law on Sustainable Fisheries underlines that products derived from capture fisheries and aquaculture in federal jurisdictional waters will be managed through permits and concessions. Permits are issued for a period of two up to five years and concessions to capture fisheries species of five up to 20 years and for 50 years in aquaculture.

The General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture establish the following requirements in order to regulate high seas operations and for granting licenses:

**Article 41.-** Permits are required for the following activities:

X. Fishing on the high seas or in waters under federal jurisdiction with vessels of Mexican registry and flying the Mexican flag, consistent with international agreements in which Mexico is a party. XIV. Unloading or transfer of commercial fisheries products in foreign ports by Mexican vessels and flying the Mexican flag.

**Article 63.-** All interested parties in obtaining a fishing permit for the high seas or for waters under foreign jurisdiction, or interested in unloading in foreign port, with vessels of Mexican registry and flying the Mexican flag must fulfill the requirements established in this law as well as those established in the international agreements of which Mexico is a Party.



The Secretariat can only give permits to Mexican citizens. Access quotas that are given to the country by foreign governments to harvest fishery resources are managed by the Secretariat.

In a case that the (permit) granting government allows individuals to acquire licenses or permits directly for commercial fishing, its holder, at the request of the Secretariat, will verify that the takings are in accordance with the terms of the permits or licenses.

The fishing permits holders for high seas or in waters under foreign jurisdiction, with Mexican registry and flying the Mexican flag must present a fishing arrival report as prescribed by the applicable regulations of the General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**Article 73.-** The permit to unload or for trans-shipment of commercial fish products that are captured by Mexican vessels flying the Mexican flag in foreign ports will be granted by the Secretariat, always when the interested Party presents along, with the permit request, any other information required in the applicable regulations implementing the Law. In emergency cases of environmental contingency and technical problems, vessels will be observing the dispositions of the regulation of the law.

**Article 74.-** A permit is required to unload commercial live, fresh or frozen fish products in Mexican ports from fishing vessels with foreign flag. Interested Parties in obtaining such permit will submit the title that permitted them to undertake the fishing activity, as issued by the foreign competent authority; as well as the fulfillment of any established by this Law. In emergency cases of environmental contingency and technical problems, vessels will be observing the dispositions of the regulation of the law.

Also producers are subject to comply with fishing regulations included in the Official Mexican Standards (NOM's). Those standards establish the terms and conditions for fishing and aquaculture in the country, including objective species, protected species, fishing seasons, authorized capture systems and its characteristics (methods and equipment), operation conditions, minimum catch sizes and verification processes.

Complementing these Official Mexican Standards, there are several fishing ban agreements for some of the most important marine species such as tuna.

Also, the institutional framework included a research institute that is the National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA) which is a decentralized agency in charge of the investigation and the provision important scientific information for the decision making.

Regarding the conservation and management measures, there are the following regulations.

- The NOM-062-PESC-2007 establishes the mandatory use of a satellital system for the monitoring of mexican fishing vessels.
- The "Draft Mexican Official Standard proy-nom-001-SAG/PESC-2013, responsible tuna fishing. Specifications for the operations of purse seine fishing" is on the phase of public consultation.

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

## **PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2012**

**JULY, 2013**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2013	Not Applicable
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Mexican vessels did not fish in the WCPFC Convention Area.	

## 1. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Although, Mexican purse seiner vessels did not fish in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2012, there are historical fisheries in 1983 and 1984 (Table 1).

MEXICO HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION AREA																	
Year	Type of Vessel	Vessels Active	Fishing Effort: Days Fished	Fishing Area	SPECIES												
					SKIPJACK			YELLOWFIN			BIGEYE			OTHER		TOTAL	
					Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	Catch	CPUE	
1983	Purse Seiner	1	14	SouthWest	388	27.71	83	69	4.93	15	11	0.79	2	0	468	33.43	
1984	Purse Seiner	5	282	SouthWest	4,262	15.11	65	2,036	7.22	31	302	1.07	5	0	6,600	23.4	
	SouthWest																
	SouthWest																
	SouthWest																

Table 1. Historical Catches in the WCPFC area by Mexico purse seiner vessels.

## 2. FLAG STATE REPORTING

Although, Mexican pole-and-line vessels did not fish in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2012, there are historical fisheries in 1978-2005. (Table 2)

MEXICO								
HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION AREA								
Year	Type of Vessel	Units and catch effort	SPECIES					
			SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE	ALBACORE	BLUE MARLIN	OTHER SPECIES
			Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch
1978	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	33	0	0	0	0
1979	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	41	0	0	0	0
1981	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	21	0	0	0	0
1982	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	70	58	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	50	42	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	49	54	0	0	0	0
1984	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	42	53	0	0	0	0
1985	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	42	0	0	0	0
1986	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	28	42	0	0	0	0
1987	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	47	61	0	0	0	0
1988	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	40	46	0	0	0	0
1989	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	61	59	0	0	0	0
1990	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	33	56	0	0	0	0
1991	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	32	42	0	0	0	0
1992	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	60	0	0	0	0
1993	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	44	58	0	0	0	0
1994	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	56	65	0	0	0	0
1995	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	74	57	0	0	0	0
1996	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	58	63	0	0	0	0
1997	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	70	80	0	0	0	0
1998	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	50	73	0	0	0	0
1999	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	5	0	0	0	0	0
2000	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	18	60	0	0	0	0
2001	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	69	0	0	0	0
2002	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	22	29	0	0	0	0
2003	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	20	20	0	0	0	0
2004	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	27	0	0	0	0
2005	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	24	23	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Historical Catches in the WCPFC area by Mexico pole-and-line vessels.