

中华人民共和国农业农村部渔业渔政管理局

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Mr. Craig Loveridge
Executive Secretary
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

Apr 20th, 2023

Dear Mr. Craig Loveridge,

Hope this email finds you and all the Secretariat colleagues well.

Regarding CMM 01-2023 on the Conservation and Management Measure for *Trachurus murphyi*, firstly, we would like to emphasize that China attached great importance to the scientific conservation and sustainable utilization of CJM resources in SPRFMO Convention area, meanwhile, we would also like to commend this organization for the recovery of the CJM resource with the concerted effort of all the members especially the contributions made by members including China in recent years. However, according to paragraph 2(a) of Article 17 of the SPRFMO Convention, China would like to present to the Executive Secretary an objection to the CJM tonnages and percentages contained in the table 1 and table 2 of the CMM 01-2023.

The grounds of such objection is that, according to Article 21, when taking decisions regarding participation in fishing for any fishery resource, including the allocations of a total allowable catch or total allowable fishing effort, the Commission shall take into account the status of the fishery resource and the existing level of fishing effort for that resource

and the following (a) to (j) criteria to the extent relevant. Meanwhile, according to CJM CMM, especially the provisions on transfer, clearly stated that the conditions for any transfer between members is “without prejudice to future agreements on the allocation of fishing opportunities”. However, the current allocation quota and its percentage was established based on the CJM catches derived from transfer, which is clearly against CJM CMM and did not take into account the criteria of Article 21 of the SPRFMO Convention. China did not oppose to adjust member’s CJM quota and percentage but insisted that such increase must be done in an voluntarily basis between those members who would like to do so rather than forcibly reduce those members’ quota and percentage who would like not to do so in a manner against their will and without their content, which, in our view, undermine those members interest of participatory right of CJM fishery, this, constitute discrimination unjustifiably in form or in fact against the member of the Commission.

However, China would like to welcome the three new entrants to participate in the CJM fishery and therefore recognize their quotas calculated based on the percentage of 0.1019% for each of the three new entrants based on past practice that other members shall reduce their quotas proportionally to satisfy the quota requirement of the three new entrants. So based on this logic, China’s CJM percentage in table 2 shall be 6.3263% from the previous 6.3477% and then the corresponding quotas should be 68324 tons in table 2 as the alternative measures, and this alternative measures will be binding to China the same date according to paragraph 1 (6) of Article 17, besides, China committed to complying with all the other parts of CMM 01-2023.

Best regards.

乔若瑾

Ruojin QIAO

China's Commissioner to SPRFMO