STATEMENT OF PANAMA DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NEAFC

Panama, November 14, 2019

HONORABLE
Chair of the Commission, Distinguished Members, Observers and Secretariat Staff of the Commission.

The Republic of Panama, was accepted recently the last year as a Cooperating non Contracting Party of the NEAFC, expressing a high level of commitment and participation and fully cooperation with the Organization in all levels that be required. Panama recently have changed the administration of the Government and with that change have decided to be more proactive and less reactive.

The Republic of Panama, has made some changes in the administrative structure particularly in the Aquatic Resources Authority, competent in fisheries activities, including the creation of the new Directorate of International Cooperation and High Seas Fisheries Affairs. With this new Department we are confident that we will provide all the information to the Secretariat. Also, we have created a Compliance Committee in order to ensure that all the information be provided on time.

Also we will undertake to respect the provisions of the scheme of control and any recommendation established under the convention in order to ensure the compliance of our vessels, including observer programs, inspection at sea and in port and VMS issues.

I am confident that with the explanation expressed on the basis of our request of renewal of the status of CNCP in the NEAFC, we reaffirm our commitment to comply with conservation and management measures through our renewal in the Commission.

I remain truly yours, to reaffirm the nonstop commitment of the Republic of Panama to comply with the measures of conservation and management and will ensure to provide all the necessary information required by NEAFC.

Finally, we request to all the member of this important commission grant us the renew of status as cooperating non contracting party.

Thank very much to allowing us the opportunity to express in this meeting our great interest in continuing to belong the Commission as CNCP.