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## COMM 12 - Report ANNEX 10g

### Statement of ECO NZ and DSCC to the 12<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting of SPRFMO

#### CLIMATE CHANGE (ECO and DSCC)

30 Jan 2024 4:50 pm afternoon

Thank you chair, and thank you to Ecuador - on behalf of ECO and DSCC

The Commission's adoption of Decision 13-2023 is a welcome step toward developing and implementing effective management mechanisms to address the projected impacts of climate change within the Convention Area.

Our briefing provides some background on efforts being made by other RFMOs to address climate change and makes some specific suggestions for SPRFMO.

We would like to draw attention to preambular para 7 which notes the urgency in developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate on fishery resources in the Convention Area. This reflects the very pressing context of the Decision.

The Decision requests advice from SC and CTC to provide recommendations on responses to climate change impacts and mechanisms to build adaptation and resilience but believe it is essential that the Commission also progress discussion and agreement in the interim on this urgent issue.

In particular, the DSCC suggests that the Commission

- Takes a highly precautionary approach to the setting of catch limits in the absence of climate impact advice, using best science available
- Adopts the Chilean proposal for the protection of the unique and vulnerable ecosystems of Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges as a nature-based contribution to ecosystem protection and restoration from climate impacts
- Halts destructive fisheries practices such as bottom trawling on marine habitats likely to be more impacted by climate change, such as seamounts, seagrasses and other biodiversity hotspots. We would also draw the attention of the Commission to the recently published paper in *Frontiers in Marine Science* that reports the significant contribution of bottom trawling to the release of stored carbon.
- Requests a regular briefing from the SC on current and future impacts on climate change on SPRFMO-managed stocks, non-target species and ecosystems
- Directs the SC to consider the integration of climate impacts into all advice to the Commission