



20 April 2007

Mr W Mansfield
Chair of the International Consultations
on the Establishment of the South Pacific RFMO

Dear Mr Mansfield

I am writing to convey an offer by New Zealand to host an interim secretariat prior to the Agreement establishing the South Pacific RFMO coming into force.

Participants at the South Pacific RFMO consultation in Hobart were supportive of the need to establish a "fully fledged" organisation, with a commission and a permanent secretariat in order for the RFMO to be most effective. The revised Agreement text reflects the position of delegations on this matter. Draft interim measures discussed at the Hobart consultation also incorporated provisions, in particular on data collection and data management, which would require a secretariat in order to ensure their effective implementation. We expect interim measures, including in relation to data collection and data management, to again be a topic of discussion at the up-coming consultation in Reñaca, Chile.

It therefore appears to be widely accepted that a secretariat is required, including in the interim period, in order for the South Pacific RFMO to effectively manage fisheries within its mandate. New Zealand's preference is for the secretariat to be hosted by a coastal state.

New Zealand is willing to host the secretariat, at least during the interim period. We would welcome further discussion on this proposal at the meeting in Reñaca, including on logistical issues such as location, role, staffing levels and recruitment, and on opportunities for participation of other countries in establishment of the interim secretariat.

I would be grateful if you could please forward this letter to Heads of Delegations participating in the up-coming meeting in Reñaca, Chile for their consideration in advance of the meeting. We look forward to discussing this issue further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G T Crothers'.

G T (Stan) Crothers
Deputy Chief Executive