

DECLARATION OF CHILE

Regarding the main objective of this scientific workshop, the Chilean delegation wishes to express its concern about the proposed hypotheses presented during the revision of the final report, which compiles the results obtained in this workshop.

As Chilean scientists, we are deeply convinced that the Science Group, which assists the international negotiations for the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization, has carried out a highly productive, technical quality work, achieving relevant advances, which, up to now, have been based on sound scientific foundation-

In Chile's opinion, the proposed fourth hypothesis presented on jack mackerel stock structure, lacks scientific evidence to support it; if accepted or validated, it could affect the work carried out by the Science Group.

Chile strongly believes that accepting this kind of proposal could set a negative precedent, affecting the credibility of the Science Group, and its fundamental quality, which mainly is expressed through the consistency of the scientific basis on which its decisions and recommendations are founded.

Chile does not favor this kind of negative precedent, since they affect transparency, effectiveness and the responsibility of conserving and managing the future South Pacific organization. As such, the Organization shall base its future decisions on the recommendations made by the Science Group. In this sense, and for the Science group immediate future work, this workshop represents a fundamental instance.

The Chilean delegation will ask the Chair to include this declaration as an Annex to the final report of this workshop.

Santiago, July 4, 2008