



As National General Secretary of Fishing Captains and Director of Argentine Naval League, I have fixed a position in relation to the OPRAS Agreement, an organization integrated by Argentinian fishing chambers and companies, with similar organizations in Brazil and Spain. We are convinced that this agreement is not convenient for Argentina's sovereignty and for fishing workers.

From *Asociación Argentina de Capitanes de Pesca*, respecting our Social Statute guidelines, we have been claiming the participation of the workers in the decisions taken in relation with the exploitation of fishing resources. In that sense, we have claimed the modification of article 8, from Federal Fishing Law 24,992, insisting that for all agreements of this kind, before its elaboration, workers' opinions should be taken into account. This has not been the case in other opportunities, for that reason we demand this method changes, because eventual negative results may cause the loss of labour sources.

For this analysis we take into account that the amount and nature of resource that will be exploited is unknown, as well as the conditions in which Argentina and Spain would participate in this Agreement. We understand that if the Organization for South Atlantic Resources Protection (OPRAS) wants to administrate the mentioned resources, the labour unions should not be absent.

An Agreement with Spaniards that does not contemplate Malvinas area, and licencies that Spaniards usufruct from United Kingdom is absolutely unacceptable, because this would literally mean to resign national sovereignty.

Validating this Agreement would mean validating the multi lateral exploitation of Argentinian Sea and its resources, letting more fishing vessels in Argentinian Sea, and putting at risk our labour sources. Clearly OPRAS and its companies move in direction to ratify the New York Agreement, which has been rejected by different sectors because this would imply a greater opening of our sea to the United Kingdom, the latter aiming at intervening in future OROP (Regional Organization of Fishing Ordering), leaving Argentina with vote inferiority because each member has one vote.

In different articles published in several means of communication, strangely shown by CAPA (Argentine Chamber of Jigger fishing Vessels) the Malvinas are referred to as *Falklands*, humillating the memory of our soldiers and civilians dead in the conflict. Besides, this naming they are considered as a coastal country and estate. We believe that formulas to stop foreign vessels illegal fishing should deliberately be found, but we reject this one because the labour sector has not been consulted. These measures should be designed by national authorities with all actors' consensus.

**Managerial Commission
2018-2022**

JORGE A. FRÍAS
Secretario General Nacional
Director Liga Naval Argentina

Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, June 9 th 2020.