

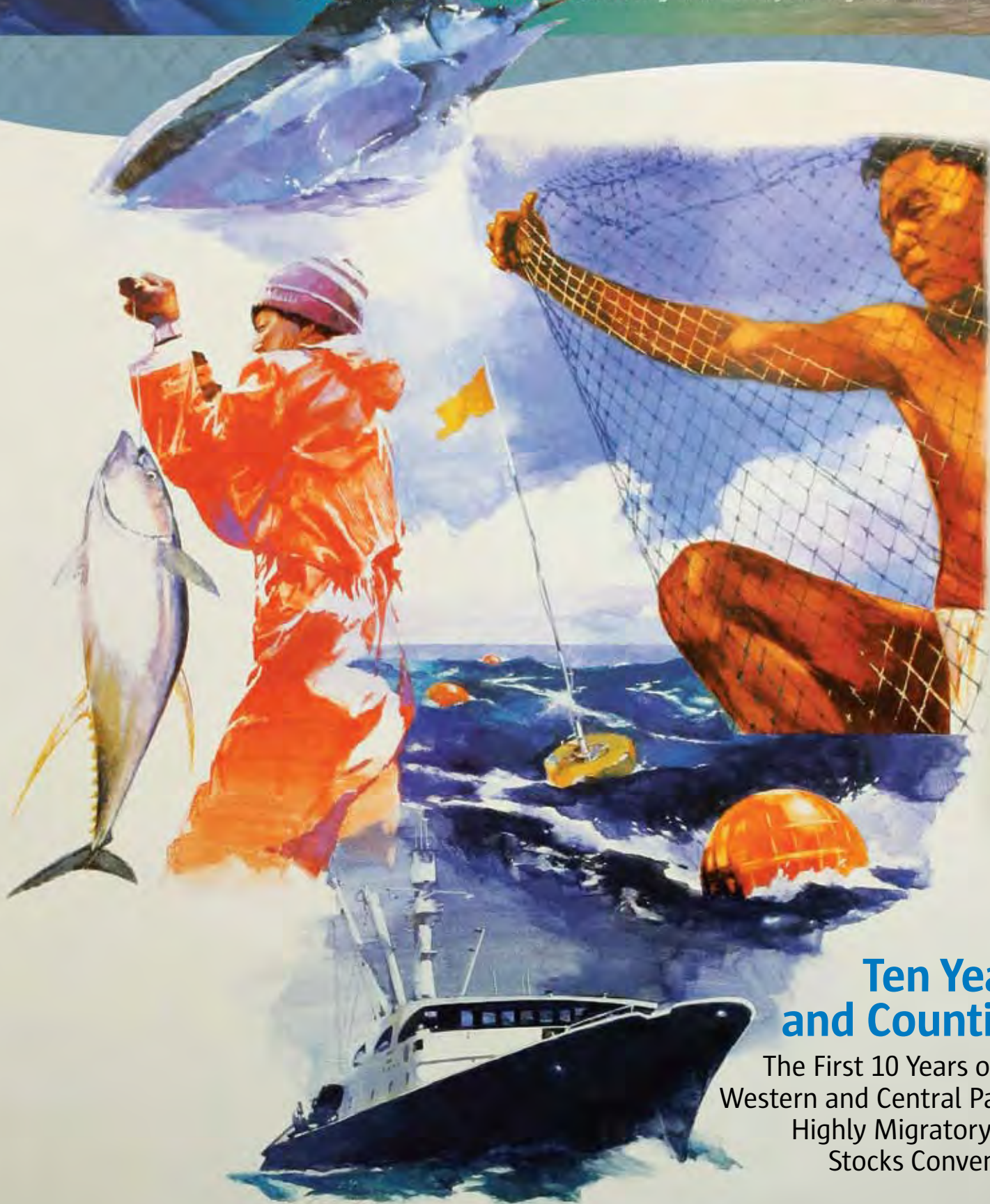


Pacific Islands Fishery

No. 2, December 2010

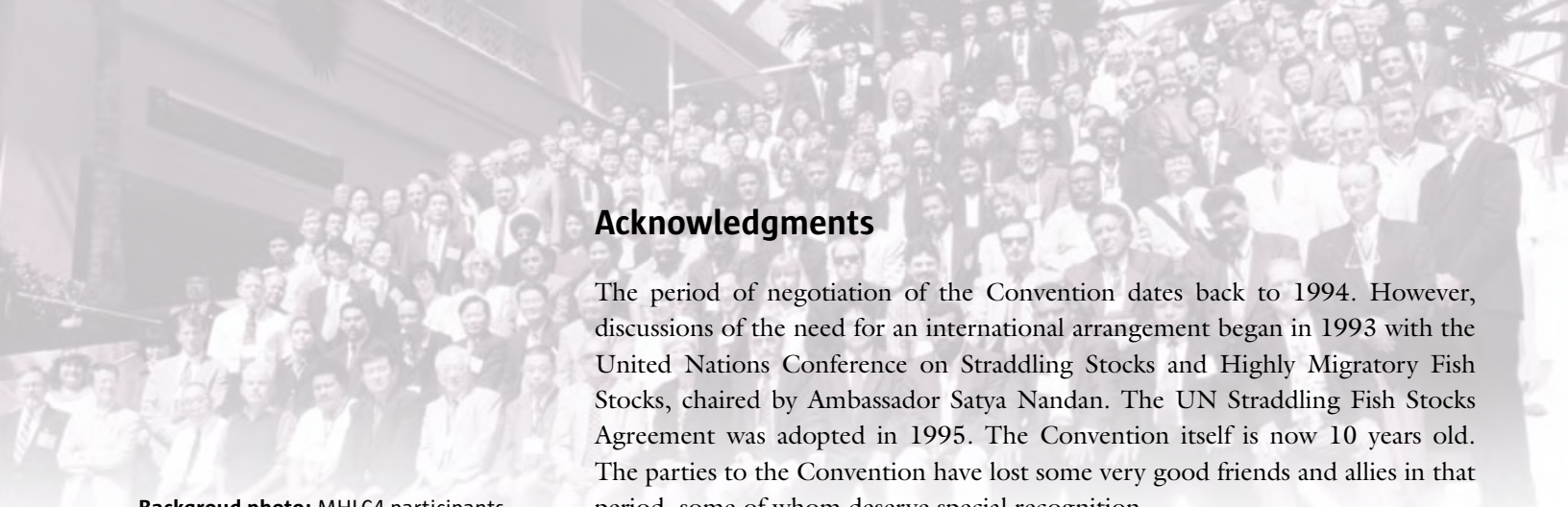
MONOGRAPHS

A Publication of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council



Ten Years and Counting

The First 10 Years of the
Western and Central Pacific
Highly Migratory Fish
Stocks Convention



Acknowledgments

The period of negotiation of the Convention dates back to 1994. However, discussions of the need for an international arrangement began in 1993 with the United Nations Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, chaired by Ambassador Satya Nandan. The UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement was adopted in 1995. The Convention itself is now 10 years old. The parties to the Convention have lost some very good friends and allies in that period, some of whom deserve special recognition.

Background photo: MHL C4 participants

Prepared by Svein Fougner for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Fougner has been a marine resources consultant since 2005, having retired from the US government in late 2004 after almost 30 years with the National Marine Fisheries Service. He was involved in the early stages of negotiations of the WCPFC Convention.

Edited by Sylvia Spalding, communications officer, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Spalding coordinated media relations for MHL C4, 5, 6 and 7 in Honolulu.

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Cover illustration: The images in the MHL C5 poster created by renowned Hawaiian artist Oliver Kinney depict Western and Central Pacific recreational, small boat, cultural, longline and purse seine fisheries.



Akau'ola was the Secretary for Fisheries of the Kingdom of Tonga and the chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) when the decision was made that the Forum Fisheries Agency would convene the 2nd MHL C in Majuro. Akau'ola had long agreed that without regional cooperation by the Pacific Island nations and other parties, there was a very real threat that the region's tuna resources could become depleted in the longer term. When he announced the decision to host the MHL C, he noted that since the FFC establishment in 1979, Pacific Island countries have been united in their stand to develop effective conservation and management arrangements to protect the region's tuna resources. An inspiring speaker and leader in the pursuit of sound, science-based fisheries management for the benefit of the Pacific islands, Akau'ola chaired the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish (the precursor to the Commission's Science Committee) during 1997 and 1998.



Phillip Mueller was the man who built the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency into one of the world's most effective inter-governmental organizations. As Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency during the 1980s, he made an enormous contribution to the region, particularly in negotiating the South Pacific Tuna Treaty with the United States. This reflected one of Phillip's great talents—the ability to bring Pacific countries together, even before the Tuna Treaty, to get the worldwide band on drift net fishing, a ban that other countries had tried to push at the United Nations, but had failed. His contribution to the negotiation of the Convention was fundamental in the eventual successful outcome of the Honolulu Convention.



Bernard Thoulag, from the beginning, believed in and worked hard on the idea of a wider forum to discuss and agree on the management of the tuna fisheries that are so important to many Pacific Island States. He strove to ensure that all parties worked together and to balance the benefits back to the countries in whose waters the fishing occurred, including the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Bernard was indefatigable in his support and work for his people of FSM, for the people of the Pacific Islands and also for the countries that fished in the WCPFC Convention Area. He developed appropriate agreements for tuna fishing in the South Pacific, yet never lost sight of the need to bring home the benefits of the fisheries being harvested in Micronesia's waters.



Ten Years and Counting

The First 10 Years of the Western and Central Pacific Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Convention

4 September 2000 was a day to remember.

That day, in Honolulu, Hawaii, some 26 nations, territories and fishing entities voted to adopt the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention). This Convention established a new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Commission) to have competence over fisheries for highly migratory species in the Convention Area (see map on page 4). The institutions and fisheries management regime in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) would never be the same.

The Convention was the product of almost six years of negotiations. It started with the first Multi-lateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLC) convened by the Forum Fisheries Agency in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in December 1994, and ended with the adoption of the Convention at the 7th MHLC in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 2000. In the process, the parties addressed standard issues in fisheries treaties—species and fisheries to be covered, the area of competence of the implementing organization, organizational structure, etc.

—as well as new and controversial issues previously left under fishery agreements to implementing resolutions or recommendations, such as observer programs and boarding and inspection procedures applicable under the Convention.

One of the key events was the adoption at the conclusion of the 2nd MHLC in 1997 of the “Majuro Declaration,” which committed the parties to reaching agreement by the end of the year 2000. The Conference closed with an inspiring commentary from Masaso Paunga of Tonga, who likened the negotiators to early island navigators on a voyage to a promised land guided by the stars, the ocean currents, and their common goodwill and commitment. Nonetheless, the 2000 deadline was met only with great difficulty. The ongoing commitment and good faith of the parties was important, but it also took the tireless efforts of the Chairman of the Conference, the Honorable Satya N. Nandan, who presented to the Conference a final draft text for adoption. The Conference agreed to this text as well as to a resolution establishing a Preparatory Conference for the establishment of the Commission.

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO in accordance

with the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the UN Implementing Agreement, or UNIA). The latter was especially important as it establishes critical rules of the road with respect to rights and obligations of coastal states and flag states that must share fishery resources—such as tuna and billfishes—that range across exclusive economic zones and the high seas. One of the key achievements of the Convention was the first implementation of the UNIA.

The Convention commits to managing stocks throughout their range and is intended to result in compatibility of conservation and management measures applicable on the high seas and in waters of national sovereignty in the Convention Area. The Convention also firmly endorses and commits to the “precautionary approach,” such that the Commission will always consider the uncertainty associated with fisheries science and interpretation of available data and militate against the risk of adverse consequences from being insufficiently conservative in its management decisions. The Commission structure provides for a Science Committee to provide scientific advice to support decision-making and a Technical and Compliance Committee to review and

advise on measures with respect to effective implementation and enforcement of Commission decisions. The Convention provided that the Commission would establish a separate Northern Committee to make recommendations on the formulation and implementation of conservation and management measures in respect of northern Pacific bluefin, northern albacore and the northern stock of swordfish in the area north of 20° north parallel. While it is intended that management measures be adopted by consensus, there is a unique decision process that would allow “voting” on certain issues if consensus cannot be reached on a matter for which a decision simply must be made.



Canoes graced the four MHLCs hosted by the United States and coordinated by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, reminding the negotiators of their role as navigators on a voyage guided by their common goodwill and commitment.

Current Conservation and Management Measures

The Commission has a large number of conservation and management measures covering a wide range of issues and problems:

Measures for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the WCPO

Measure for South Pacific Albacore Tuna

Measure for North Pacific Albacore Tuna

Measure for Southwest Pacific Swordfish

Measure for Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific

Measure for Sharks in the WCPO

Measure for North Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Mitigate Incidental Catch of Seabirds

Minimize Impacts on Non-Target Fish Species

Aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories

Reduction of Overcapacity

Mitigate the Impact of Fishing on Sea Turtles

Commission Vessel Monitoring System and Commission Regional Observer Program

Boarding and Inspection Procedures

Procedure for Listing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Vessels

Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish

Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels

Prohibit the Use of Large-Scale Drift Gillnets on the High Seas in the Convention Area

Prohibit Fishing on Data Buoys

Regulation of Transshipment

Charter Notification Requirements

Monitoring of Landings by Purse Seiners in Port

Control of Vessels without Nationality

Resources and Fisheries of the Convention Area

The tuna and ecologically associated resources of the WCPO are extremely valuable for commercial fisheries but also are of great cultural and economic value for the small island developing states and communities of the Convention Area. The WCPO accounts for almost 60 percent of the total catch of major tuna species in the world. The gross value of this catch is estimated to be worth in excess of US\$5 billion per year. This does not consider the values associated with smaller scale subsistence fisheries or local commercial fisheries, which would have no alternative resources to pursue if the tuna and associated fish stocks were to be decimated by overfishing. At the same time, without proper management, the fisheries' impacts on non-fish species, such as seabirds and sea

Source: *Estimates of Annual Catches in the WCPFC Statistical Area, Oceanic Fisheries Program*, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, August 2010

turtles, could be devastating. In addition, most of the fishery resources are captured in the economic zones of island nations and territories, making it more critical than ever that there be compatibility between Commission management and national management measures.

Below are some facts and figures that attempt to provide a snapshot of some of the resources involved and their importance in the WCPO.

Summary Fishery Statistics of Note, 2007–2009			
	2007	2008	2009
Target Species Tuna Catch (mt)	2,368,500	2,398,700	2,467,900
Billfish Catch (mt)	51,000	48,000	43,000
Target Tuna Catch by Gear Type (mt)			
Purse Seine	1,777,300	1,823,000	1,894,500
Longline	214,800	214,900	223,800
Pole-and-line	198,600	179,000	165,800
Other	9,200	11,700	10,200
Bigeye Catch by Gear Type (mt)			
Purse Seine	38,800	44,700	43,500
Longline	70,700	64,900	58,800
Pole-and-line	4,200	3,600	4,100
Other	4,800	4,600	5,100



The Next 10 Years

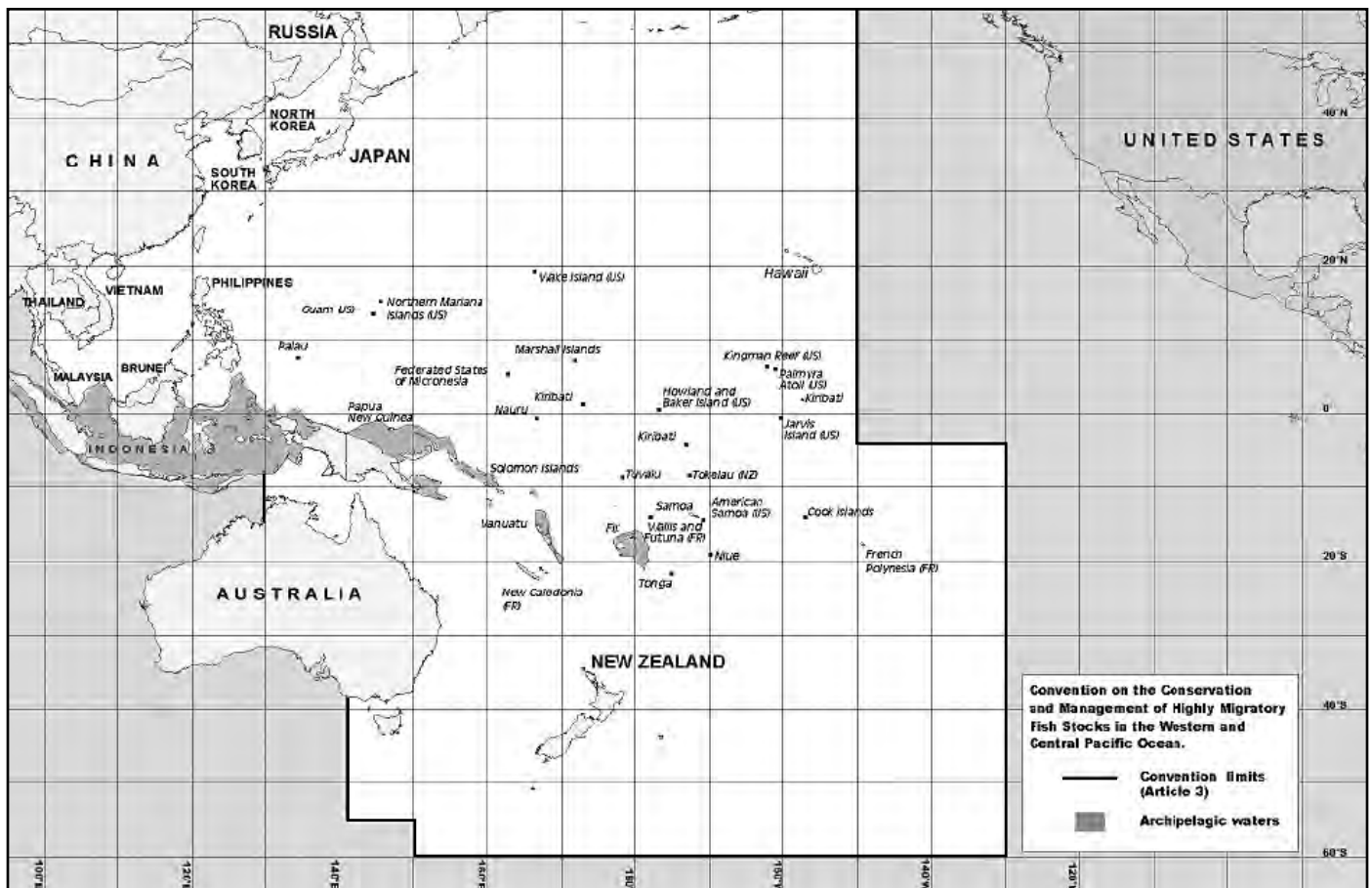
The first 10 years have been exciting, nerve-racking, difficult and yet productive, yet there is so much more to do. Here are some of the key issues that will continue to be the subject of debate, discussions, possibly dissension and, hopefully, ultimately decisions. The Commission will continue to need to address these as it seeks to establish and maintain healthy stocks and productive fisheries for the benefit of all the people of the WCPO and of the fisheries that depend on the stocks of the WCPO.

Key Issues

Compliance All Commission members and cooperating non-members (CCMs) are equals in the Commission, but not all CCMs have equal or even comparable levels of resources to carry out their rights and obligations under the Convention and other international law. However, the credibility of the Commission and of the conservation and management measures adopted will depend in some part on the clear evidence that all CCMs responsibly monitor all their fisheries such that the conservation and management measures are fairly and effectively enforced. Non-compliance by one will be hard to accept; non-compliance by several will render the system suspect and will in fact encourage broader non-compliance in the future. This must be avoided. Additionally, a review process on compliance must still be established to fully implement the functions of the Technical and Compliance Committee as spelled out in the Convention text.

Compatibility The Convention calls for the Commission to achieve compatibility of management throughout the range of the stocks, meaning across the high seas and the waters of national jurisdiction. The words seem clear enough, but the interpretation and implementation of the words is still difficult. Commission measures must not undermine national measures for conservation of the fish stocks, but national measures must not undermine the measures by the Commission for the stocks involved. Striking a balance that will be acceptable to all will involve compromise and accommodation to ensure that the stocks are adequately protected from overfishing.

Science The quality and credibility of scientific advice will depend in part on the availability of resources for scientific work and on the ability and willingness of the members to collect and provide high quality data for scientific use. There is a need for balance between the need to protect confidential and proprietary industry data and the



need to have vessel and fleet level data for scientific work such as stock assessments and evaluation of the effects and effectiveness of conservation and management measures. Small island developing states will continue to need assistance to build their capabilities in this regard, and all flag states will have to ensure that their vessels fully comply with all record keeping and record submission requirements. The Convention text is clear that the lack of data is not an excuse for delaying necessary management action and can be a major cause of inappropriate management measures.

Small Island Developing States To say the Pacific Island States have little in the way of resources other than fish

is to understate the case. Apart from the large Melanesian islands in the southwest Pacific, they have very little land for agriculture, no major mineral deposits and freshwater resources that are often limited. They are surrounded by ocean and may have only the resources that the ocean can provide. They have a long history of opening their waters to foreign fishing under licensing schemes, but they lack the resources to strongly enforce conservation measures at sea. Regardless, in the absence of measures to ensure long-term protection of the fish stocks, their ventures could be at risk from inappropriate fishing levels by others outside their waters. After all, the fish are migratory; indeed, in one year, the fish may be more concentrated in one sub-region than another, only to

shift again the next year. This makes it difficult to extract a good “resource rent” for the licenses involved. Further, some of these nations want their own fleets and ability to process their catch locally. A successful Commission can help them navigate their way to a better deal in terms of either nationally based fishing fleets or higher licensing fees. But those with long-standing fishing histories will not eagerly or quickly give up their shares of the historic catch. The Commission will have to strike a balance that will provide a fair and equitable share of the resources to the many competing interests. This will be difficult.

Key links

www.wcpfc.int
www.ffa.int

www.iattc.org
www.spc.int/oceanfish/

<http://isc.ac.affrc.go.jp/>

Key Documents and Excerpts

Majuro Declaration (June 12, 1997)

“Determined to ensure the effective conservation and management and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific throughout the range of their distribution ...

“Declare their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks of the region in accordance with the (Law of the Sea) Convention and the Implementing Agreement ...

“Decide to set an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997 in which to negotiate and establish the mechanism referred to in paragraph 1 ...”

Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (September 5, 2000)

“Determined to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use, in particular for human food consumption, of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean for present and future generations ...

“Further recognizing that smaller island developing States have unique needs which require special attention and consideration in the provision of financial, scientific and technological assistance ...

“Acknowledging that compatible, effective and binding conservation and management measures can be achieved only through cooperation between coastal States and States fishing in the region ...

“Convinced that effective conservation and management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific Ocean in their entirety may best be achieved through the establishment of a regional Commission ...

“The objective of this Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the Agreement.”



Resolution to Implement the Convention through the Preparatory Conference Process (September 5, 2000)

“Having adopted the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (“the Convention”) which provides for the establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean ...

“Having decided to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of the functions of the Commission without undue delay and to take all possible measures to ensure its effective operation ...

“Having decided to establish a Preparatory Conference for the fulfillment of these purposes ...

“The Preparatory Conference shall be open to participation by the States referred to in article 34 of the Convention and by the fishing entity referred to in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The territories referred to in article 43 of the Convention may participate in the same manner as they participated in the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (“the Conference”). Other States and entities that participated as observers in the Conference may participate in the Preparatory Conference as observers but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions. ...

“The Preparatory Conference will adopt its rules of procedure which shall require decisions on matters of substance to be taken by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting and decisions on questions of procedure to be taken by a majority of those present and voting. ...

“The Preparatory Conference will:

1. prepare draft rules of procedure of the Commission;
2. prepare draft rules, regulations and procedures, as necessary, to enable the Commission to commence its functions, including draft regulations concerning the financial management and internal administration of the Commission;
3. prepare the provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Commission and, as appropriate, make recommendations relating to items thereon;
4. make recommendations concerning the Secretariat of the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention;
5. make recommendations concerning the establishment of the headquarters of the Commission; and
6. make recommendations concerning the budget for the first financial period of the Commission, including recommendations for a scheme for contributions to the budget in accordance with article 18, paragraph 2, of the Convention.”

WCPFC Meetings: The First 10 Years

Preparatory Conference

PreCon I, Christchurch, New Zealand, April 2001
PreCon II, Madang, Papua New Guinea, February 2002
PreCon III, Manila, Philippines, November 2002
PreCon IV, Nadi, Fiji Islands, May 2003
PreCon V, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, September 2003
PreCon VI, Bali, Indonesia, April 2004
PreCon VI, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 2004

Scientific Coordinating Group

SCG1, Honolulu, Hawaii, July 2002
SCG2, Mooloolaba, Australia, July 2003
SCG3, Majuro, Marshall Islands, August 2004

Regular Sessions of the Commission

Inaugural Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 2004
2nd Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 2005
3rd Regular Session, Apia, Samoa, December 2006
4th Regular Session, Tumon, Guam, USA, December 2007
5th Regular Session, Busan, Republic of Korea, December 2008
6th Regular Session, Papeete, Tahiti, December 2009
7th Regular Session, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, December 2010

Scientific Committee

1st Regular Session, New Caledonia, August 2005
2nd Regular Session, Manila, Philippines, August 2006
3rd Regular Session, Honolulu, Hawaii, August 2007
4th Regular Session, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, August 2008
5th Regular Session, Port Vila, Vanuatu, August 2009
6th Regular Session, Nukualofa, Tonga, August 2010

Technical and Compliance Committee

1st Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 2005
2nd Regular Session, Brisbane, Australia, September 2006
3rd Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, September–October 2007
4th Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, October 2008
5th Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, October 2009
6th Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, September–October 2010

Northern Committee

1st Regular Session, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 2005
2nd Regular Session, Tokyo, Japan, September 2006
3rd Regular Session, Tokyo, Japan, September 2007
4th Regular Session, Tokyo, Japan, September 2008
5th Regular Session, Nagasaki, Japan, September 2009
6th Regular Session, Fukuoka, Japan, September 2010

Intersessional Working Group - Regional Observer Programme

ROP-IWG1, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, September 2007
ROP-IWG2, Nadi, Fiji, July 2008
ROP-IWG3, Guam, March 2009

Special Sessions

1st Special Session, Brisbane, Australia, July 2010

Workshops

Stakeholders in WCPO Tuna Fisheries, Canberra, Australia, April 2006

Ad Hoc Task Group

Ad Hoc Task Group [Data], Manila, Philippines, July 2006
Ad Hoc Task Group [Data], Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, September 2009

WCPFC–IATTC Consultative Meetings

1st Meeting, Cancun, Mexico, June 2007
2nd Meeting, Tumon, Guam, December 2007
3rd Meeting, Panama City, Panama, June 2008
4th Meeting, Busan, Republic of Korea, December 2008

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

FINAL ACT OF THE MULTILATERAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

I. INTRODUCTION



US Senator Daniel K. Inouye, MHLC
chairman Satya Nandan and Mary Beth
West, US Department of State

1. Following the entry into force, on 16 November 1994, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, in December 1994, convened a multilateral high-level conference on South Pacific tuna fisheries. The broad objective of the conference was to promote responsible fishing operations for fishing vessels operating in the South Pacific region, particularly in the light of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Subsequently, following the adoption, in 1995, of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, a second multilateral conference was convened in June 1997 in order to consider issues relating to the establishment of a regional mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. That conference agreed that further sessions of the conference should be convened with a view to the establishment of a regional mechanism for conservation and management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific within an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997.¹

II. SESSIONS

2. The sessions of the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific were held as follows:
 - First session held at Honiara, Solomon Islands, 1 to 5 December 1994;
 - Second session held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, 10 to 13 June 1997;
 - Third session held at Tokyo, Japan, 22 to 26 June 1998;
 - Fourth session held at Honolulu, Hawaii, 10 to 19 February 1999;
 - Fifth session held at Honolulu, Hawaii, 6 to 15 September 1999;
 - Sixth session, held at Honolulu, Hawaii, 11 to 19 April 2000;
 - Seventh session, held at Honolulu, Hawaii, 30 August to 5 September 2000.
3. In addition, the Conference mandated a number of technical consultations for the consideration of specific technical issues relevant to the work of the Conference. Such technical consultations were held as follows:
 - Technical consultation on the collection and exchange of fisheries data, tuna research and stock assessment, held at Noumea, New Caledonia, 15 to 19 July 1996;
 - Technical consultation on fishing vessel monitoring systems, held at Suva, Fiji, 13 to 15 November 1996;
 - Intersessional technical consultation on issues relating to fisheries management held at Honiara, Solomon Islands, 1 to 5 December 1997;

¹ Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997.

- Intersessional technical consultation on issues relating to monitoring control and surveillance held at Suva, Fiji, 10 to 13 March 1998.

III. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

4. Participation in the first session of the Conference was by invitation of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, as convenor of the Conference. Subsequently, other States, territories and fishing entities with an interest in the highly migratory fish stocks in the region were invited to participate in the Conference, either as full participants, or as observers.

States, territories and fishing entities that participated at sessions of the Conference

Australia, Canada,² China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Indonesia,³ Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands,⁴ Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

Observers that participated at sessions of the Conference

States and entities

Canada (second and third sessions)
Ecuador (sixth and subsequent sessions)
European Commission (fourth and subsequent sessions)
Mexico (fifth and subsequent sessions)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands (fifth session)

Intergovernmental organizations and South Pacific regional organizations

Asian Development Bank
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Forum Secretariat
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
OLDEPESCA
Pacific Community
South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
University of the South Pacific
Western Pacific Fisheries Consultative Committee.

IV. OFFICERS

5. At the first session, the Conference elected Mr Robin Yarrow (Fiji) as its Chairman. At the second session, Mr Satya N. Nandan (Fiji) was elected as the Chairman of the Conference. Mr Michael W. Lodge served as Secretary of the Conference. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, provided an officer, Mr Blaise Kuemlangan, to serve as technical adviser to the Conference.

V. MAIN DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The following is a list of the main documents and resolutions issued during the Conference. In addition to these documents, official accounts of the work of the Conference may be found in the statements of the Chairman issued at the end of each session and published in the reports of the Conference.⁵ Additional information on the issues considered by the Conference may be found in the information notes issued by the Chairman prior to each session.⁶

- Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997
- MHLC/WP.1 (22 June 1998) Draft Articles for a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- MHLC/WP.1/Rev.1 (26 June 1998) Revised Draft Articles for a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- MHLC/WP.1/Rev.2 (19 February 1999) Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- MHLC/WP.2 (20 July 1999) Draft Preamble and Final Clauses for a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- MHLC/WP.1/Rev.3 (9 September 1999) Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- MHLC/WP.1/Rev.4 (16 September 1999) Revised Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, Prepared by the Chairman.
- Resolution of 19 February 1999, relating to the exercise of restraint in the expansion of fishing effort.
- Resolution of 15 September 1999, relating to future participation in the Conference.
- MHLC/Draft Convention (17 April 2000).

² Admitted as a participant at the fourth session.

³ Indonesia participated from the third session.

⁴ Admitted as a participant at the sixth session.

⁵ An official report was issued by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency after each session of the Conference.

⁶ The information notes are included in the reports of the Conference.

- MHLC/WP.3/Rev.1 (19 April 2000) Draft resolution relating to the establishment of a Preparatory Conference for the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.
- MHLC/Draft Convention/Rev.1 (19 April 2000).
- MHLC/WP.3/Rev.2 (19 April 2000) Draft resolution relating to the establishment of a Preparatory Conference for the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.
- MHLC/Draft Convention/Rev.2 (2 September 2000).

VI. WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

7. The first session of the Conference was convened at Honiara, Solomon Islands, in December 1994. The work of the session consisted of a general debate on issues relating to the establishment of a regional mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. The topics of discussion at the first session included the status of highly migratory fish stocks in the region, collection and exchange of catch data, transshipment, transponder technology and enforcement. Participants in the first session reached a common understanding on the need for sustainable development of the tuna resources of the western and central Pacific Ocean, the importance of responsible fishing and the need for effective cooperation between coastal States and distant water fishing nations in the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the region.
8. Following the first session of the Conference two technical consultations took place. A technical consultation on the collection and exchange of fisheries data took place at Noumea, New Caledonia, from 15 to 19 July 1996. A technical consultation on a regional vessel monitoring system took place at Suva, Fiji, from 13 to 15 November 1996.
9. The second session of the Conference was convened at Majuro, Marshall Islands, in June 1997, following the adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, in order to consider issues relating to the establishment of a regional mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. At the end of the second session, the Conference adopted the Majuro Declaration in which participants in the Conference declared, amongst other things, their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement within an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997.
10. Also at the second session, the Conference mandated two intersessional technical consultations on issues relating to fisheries management and on issues relating to monitoring, control and surveillance. The intersessional technical consultation on issues relating to fisheries management was held at Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 1 to 5 December 1997. Mr Albert S. Wata (Solomon Islands) served as chairman of the technical consultation. The intersessional technical consultation on issues relating to monitoring control and surveillance was held at Suva, Fiji Islands, from 10 to 13 March 1998. Mr Grant Bryden (New Zealand) served as chairman of the technical consultation.
11. At the third session, the Chairman tabled a working paper containing draft articles for a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLC/WP.1). At the end of the third session, the Chairman issued a revised version of his working paper (MHLC/WP.1/Rev.1).
12. At the fourth session, the Conference continued its consideration of the Chairman's revised draft articles. At the end of the fourth session, the Chairman prepared a new revision of the draft articles in the form of a negotiating text, entitled "Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean" (MHLC/WP.1/Rev.2). The Conference also adopted a resolution relating to the exercise of restraint in the expansion of future fishing effort. In July 1999, prior to the fifth session of the Conference, the Chairman issued a further working paper containing a draft Preamble and Final Clauses for a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLC/WP.2).
13. At the fifth session, the Conference considered further the negotiating texts prepared by the Chairman (MHLC/WP.1/Rev.2 and MHLC/WP.2). In the light of the discussions, the Chairman introduced a further revision of the negotiating text under symbol MHLC/WP.1/Rev.3. The Conference considered the revised negotiating text prepared by the Chairman and, at the end of the fifth session, in the light of the discussions, the Chairman issued a further revision of the negotiating text under symbol MHLC/WP.1/Rev.4 entitled Revised Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Also at the fifth session, the Conference adopted a resolution relating to future participation in the Conference.
14. At the sixth session, the Conference considered the revised text of the Draft Convention (MHLC/WP.1/Rev.4). At the beginning of the sixth session, the Conference established two informal groups to consider and report on issues relating to financial and budgetary matters and the observer programme. Mr Grant Bryden (New Zealand) and Mr Feleti Teo (Tuvalu) served as chairmen of the informal groups. Following consideration of specific issues in informal groups, the Chairman issued on 17 April 2000 a proposal for consideration

by the Conference entitled “Draft Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean” (MHLC/Draft Convention).

15. Prior to the sixth session, the Chairman issued a working paper containing a draft resolution establishing a Preparatory Conference for the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLC/WP.3). The Conference considered the draft resolution at the sixth session and, in the light of the discussions, the Chairman issued a revised version of the draft resolution under symbol MHLC/WP.3/Rev.1. At the end of the sixth session the Chairman issued a further revised text of his proposal (MHLC/Draft Convention/Rev.1) and a further revised text of a draft resolution establishing a Preparatory Conference for the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (MHLC/WP.3/Rev.2).
16. The seventh session had been declared as the final decision-making session of the Conference. Following deliberations on key outstanding issues, the Chairman issued on 2 September 2000, for consideration by the Conference, a revised text of the “Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.” (MHLC/Draft Convention/Rev.2). In the light of concerns raised by some delegations, the Chairman continued to hold informal consultations on outstanding issues in relation to the revised text and re-issued the text of the Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.” (MHLC/Draft Convention/Rev.2*).
17. On 4 September 2000, the Chairman informed the Conference that all efforts at reaching general agreement had been exhausted. On the same date, the Chairman formally presented to the Conference the text of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean as well as the draft resolution establishing a Preparatory Conference for the establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The Convention, together with the resolution, was adopted on 4 September 2000 by a vote.⁷ On the same date, the Conference also adopted

a resolution expressing gratitude to the Governments of Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Japan and United States of America for hosting the sessions of the Conference. The resolutions adopted by the Conference are annexed to this Final Act.

18. The Conference decided to resume its seventh session on 5 September 2000 for a ceremony of signature of the Convention and this Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned representatives of the States, territories and fishing entities which participated in the Conference have signed this Final Act.

DONE at Honolulu this fifth day of September, two thousand, in a single original. The original of this Final Act shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of New Zealand.

The Chairman of the Conference:

Satya N. NANDAN

The Secretary of the Conference:

Michael W. LODGE

Representatives of the following States signed the Final Act: Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Fiji Islands, France, Indonesia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Palau, The Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea,⁸ The Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Republic of Vanuatu. The Final Act was also signed by representatives of New Caledonia and Chinese Taipei.



⁷ The result of the vote was 19 in favour, two against (Japan and Republic of Korea), with three abstentions (China, France and Tonga). Prior to the vote, Japan expressed its reservation with respect to the acceptance by the Conference of the credentials of the delegation of Indonesia.

⁸ In signing the Final Act, the Republic of Korea noted its objection to Resolution I.

RESOLUTION I

ESTABLISHING A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN



Kitty Simonds, executive director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, and Satya N. Nandan, MHLC chairman

The Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

Having adopted the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (“the Convention”) which provides for the establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

Having agreed on the desirability of early entry into force of the Convention,

Having decided to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of the functions of the Commission without undue delay and to take all possible measures to ensure its effective operation,

Having decided to establish a Preparatory Conference for the fulfillment of these purposes,

Recalling its resolution of 15 September 1999, in which participants decided, inter alia, that requests for participation in the Conference would not be entertained until the Convention enters into force,

Decides as follows:

1. The Preparatory Conference shall be open to participation by the States referred to in article 34 of the Convention and by the fishing entity referred to in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The territories referred to in article 43 of the Convention may participate in the same manner as they participated in the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (“the Conference”). Other States and entities that participated as observers in the Conference may participate in the Preparatory Conference as observers but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions.
2. The Preparatory Conference will be convened by the depositary of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the first session of the Conference shall take place no sooner than 180 days and no later than 240 days after the Convention is opened for signature.
3. The Preparatory Conference will elect its Chairman and other officers.
4. The Preparatory Conference will adopt its rules of procedure which shall require decisions on matters of substance to be taken by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting and decisions on questions of procedure to be taken by a majority of those present and voting.

5. The Preparatory Conference may provide for an interim secretariat to support its work.
6. The Preparatory Conference will:
 - (a) prepare draft rules of procedure of the Commission;
 - (b) prepare draft rules, regulations and procedures, as necessary, to enable the Commission to commence its functions, including draft regulations concerning the financial management and internal administration of the Commission;
 - (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Commission and, as appropriate, make recommendations relating to items thereon;
 - (d) make recommendations concerning the Secretariat of the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention;
 - (e) make recommendations concerning the establishment of the headquarters of the Commission; and
 - (f) make recommendations concerning the budget for the first financial period of the Commission, including recommendations for a scheme for contributions to the budget in accordance with article 18, paragraph 2, of the Convention.
7. The Preparatory Conference will also endeavour to:
 - (a) formulate recommendations for consideration by the Commission concerning:
 - (i) the implementation of articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention;
 - (ii) the collection of data and information in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Convention;
 - (iii) the establishment of a record of fishing vessels in accordance with article 24, paragraph 7, of the Convention;
 - (iv) the implementation of article 24, paragraphs 8, 9 and 10, of the Convention;
 - (v) the implementation of article 30, paragraph 3, of the Convention;
 - (b) make recommendations concerning the relationship between the Commission and existing regional institutions concerned with conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks; and
 - (c) carry out such other functions as the Conference may decide.
8. The Preparatory Conference will meet as often as necessary for the expeditious exercise of its functions. It will remain in existence until the conclusion of the first meeting of the Commission, at which time its property and records shall be transferred to the Commission.
9. The Preparatory Conference will prepare a final report on all matters within its mandate for presentation to the Commission at its first session.
10. The Preparatory Conference will seek provisional scientific advice on the status of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks and the South Pacific albacore stock and may, if it considers necessary, recommend such conservation and management measures, including provisional harvest level, as may be necessary pending the entry into force of the Convention to ensure the long-term sustainability of stocks within the Convention Area. Any conservation and management measures recommended by the Conference will be applied on a voluntary basis.
11. The Preparatory Conference may make use, as appropriate, of existing regional institutions and outside sources of expertise to facilitate its work. In particular, it may obtain scientific advice from the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish.
12. The costs of the Preparatory Conference, including secretariat costs, will be met by the participants through voluntary contributions in such manner as may be agreed, taking into account, where appropriate, the need to obtain national appropriations as well as the need to minimize the costs to all participants.



Brian S. Hallman, lead negotiator for the United States Department of State, MHL4

RESOLUTION II

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, JAPAN AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Tatsuo Saito, head of delegation, Government of Japan

The Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

Recalling that its first session was held at Honiara, Solomon Islands,

Further recalling that its second session, at which the Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997 was adopted, was held at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands,

Recalling further that its third session was held at the invitation of the Government of Japan in Tokyo, Japan,

Bearing in mind that its fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sessions, as well as the ceremony of signature of the Convention and Final Act, were held in Honolulu, Hawaii,

Acknowledging the underlying spirit of unity and cooperation in which the Conference has conducted its business throughout, which reflects the culture and ideals of the peoples of the Pacific region,

Decides

1. To express to the Governments of the Solomon Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Japan and the United States of America its gratitude for hosting the sessions of the Conference,
2. To express its sincere gratitude to all those who contributed generously to the Conference by providing financial support,
3. To express to the authorities of the State of Hawaii and, in particular, to the organizers of the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the Conference, and the ceremony of signature of the Convention and the Final Act, its deepest gratitude for the exceptional and unforgettable hospitality accorded to all participants.

Appendix 4

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF FISHING ENTITIES

Considering that Chinese Taipei participated in the Multilateral High-level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (“the Conference”),

Recalling that Chinese Taipei participated in the adoption of the Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997 in which the States, territories and fishing entities represented at the second session of the Conference declared their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean within an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997,

Considering further that Chinese Taipei participated in the adoption of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean at Honolulu on 4 September 2000 together with the Final Act of the Conference, the authentic texts of which are appended hereto,

The Conference **HEREBY INVITES** Chinese Taipei, as a fishing entity, and Chinese Taipei **HEREBY DECLARES** its intent:

- (a) to participate in the Preparatory Conference established by the resolution attached to the Final Act of the Conference,
- (b) subject to the fulfilment of its domestic legal requirements, to agree to be bound by the regime established by the Convention in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and to participate in the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have appended their signature hereto.

DONE at Honolulu this fifth day of September, two thousand, in a single original. The original text of this Arrangement shall be deposited in the treaty archives of the Government of New Zealand which will circulate a certified copy thereof to Chinese Taipei and to all signatory States to the Convention.

For Chinese Taipei:

Chairman of the Multilateral High-level Conference on
the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory
Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Appendix 5

SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

6–10 December 2010

STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

WCPFC7-2010/08

27 October 2010

Paper prepared by the Depositary, New Zealand

1. In its capacity as depositary of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the Government of New Zealand advises that since its last report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission at the Fifth annual meeting of the Commission, it has not received notification of any instruments of ratification or accession to the Convention.
2. On 28 January 2010, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union advised that, as from 1 December 2009, the European Community has been replaced and succeeded by the European Union in respect of the Convention.
3. On 7 February 2010, the Executive Director, on behalf of New Zealand as depositary, circulated notification of several corrections to the date of entry into force of the Convention for countries whose ratification or accession date fell within a calendar month that contains 31 days.
4. A table summarising the status of the Convention as of 26 October 2010 is annexed to this statement.

¹ Upon accession, the Government of the People's Republic of China advised that the Convention shall apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China but not to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China prior to further notice by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

² On 28 January 2010, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union advised that, as from 1 December 2009, the European Community has been replaced and succeeded by the European Union in respect of the Convention.

³ On 12 May 2005, the Government of France advised that, in accordance with Article 43, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna, are authorised by the Government of France to participate in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Annex: Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Status of the Convention, as of 26 October 2010

COUNTRY	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION, ACCESSION (A)	ENTRY INTO FORCE
Australia	30/10/2000	22/09/2003	19/06/2004
Canada	02/08/2001	01/11/2005	01/12/2005
China ¹		02/11/2004 (A)	02/12/2004
Cook Islands	05/09/2000	01/10/2003	19/06/2004
European Union ²		20/12/2004 (A)	19/01/2005
Federated States of Micronesia	05/09/2000	20/12/2002	19/06/2004
Fiji Islands	05/09/2000	13/03/2001	19/06/2004
France (extends to French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna) ³		12/05/2005 (A)	11/06/2005
Indonesia	31/08/2001		

Continued on page 16

On 5 September 2000 a representative of Chinese Taipei signed an Arrangement for the Participation of Fishing Entities. On 2 November 2004, in accordance with that Arrangement, Chinese Taipei advised the Depositary that it had fulfilled its domestic requirements and that it agreed to be bound by the regime established by the Convention in accordance with its Article 9(2) and to participate as a Member in the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

⁴On 19 December 2003 the Government of New Zealand advised that, in accordance with Article 43, Tokelau is authorised by the Government of New Zealand to participate in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

⁵Upon ratification, the Government of the United States of America advised that, in accordance with Article 43, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are authorised by the Government of United States of America to participate in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

COUNTRY	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION, ACCESSION (A)	ENTRY INTO FORCE
<i>Continued from page 15</i>			
Japan		08/07/2005 (A)	07/08/2005
Republic of Kiribati		09/06/2003 (A)	19/06/2004
Republic of Korea		26/10/2004 (A)	25/11/2004
Republic of the Marshall Islands	05/09/2000	23/04/2001	19/06/2004
Republic of Nauru	05/09/2000	13/08/2003	19/06/2004
New Zealand (extends to Tokelau) ⁴	05/09/2000	19/12/2003	19/06/2004
Niue	30/10/2000	17/12/2003	19/06/2004
Republic of Palau	05/09/2000	02/11/2005	2/12/2005
Independent State of Papua New Guinea	17/01/2001	17/10/2001	19/06/2004
Republic of the Philippines	05/09/2000	17/06/2005	17/07/2005
Independent State of Samoa	05/09/2000	09/02/2001	19/06/2004
Solomon Islands	23/04/2001	09/06/2003	19/06/2004
Kingdom of Tonga	23/04/2001	09/06/2003	19/06/2004
Tuvalu	05/09/2000	13/04/2004	19/06/2004
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands)			
United States of America ⁵	05/09/2000	27/06/2007	27/07/2007
Republic of Vanuatu	05/09/2004	06/10/2005	05/11/2005



Above: Glenn Hurry (center), chairman of the first five WCPFC regular sessions and current WCPFC executive director, joins Andrew “Drew” Wright (far left), the Commission’s first executive director who dedicated almost five years to the WCPFC, and others at a WCPFC5 press conference.

Right: WCPFC5 Heads of Delegation





Top row: (left) MHL C4 participants work on delineating the Convention Area; (right) MHL C7 press conference

Middle: MHL C5 participants

Left: MHL C6 participants

Above: Barbara Hanchard and Rhea Moss

Background photo (below): MHL C4 participants





10th Anniversary Honolulu Convention



The symbol of two concentric circles with markings created for the WCPFC7 was inspired by Nā Ki'i Pōhaku petroglyph designs. In William Ellis' journal *Polynesian Researches: Hawaii*, native guide Makoa explained that the concentric circles and marks may signify a journey and the number in the party that made the journey. The 10 marks in the WCPFC7 symbol represent the number of years we have journeyed since the signing of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in Honolulu on the 5th of September 2000.



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