

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

FOURTH SESSION

Honolulu, Hawai'i
10 – 19 February 1999

RESOLUTION

The participants in the fourth session of the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific ("MHLC"), meeting at Honolulu, Hawai'i, from 10 – 19 February 1999,

Recalling the Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997, in which the participants in the Conference declared their commitment to establishing a mechanism for the conservation and management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the region in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 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 and set an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997 in which to negotiate and establish such a mechanism,

Noting the progress of the MHLC towards achieving the objectives of the Majuro Declaration,

Noting further ongoing global efforts to manage fishing capacity, including efforts at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Taking into account existing conservation and management efforts in the region,

Recognizing the need to apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management and the importance, as a precautionary measure, of limiting the expansion of fishing effort in the region until the MHLC is able to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the region,

1. **Urge** all States and other entities concerned to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any regional expansion of fishing effort and capacity and to apply the precautionary approach forthwith,

2. **Decide** to cooperate exchanging information on the activities of fishing vessels which might jeopardize the effectiveness of this resolution,

4. **Agree** to take action as appropriate to disseminate this resolution widely.

Honolulu, Hawai'i
19 February 1999