

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

FIFTH SESSION

Honolulu, Hawai'i

6 – 15 September 1999

RESOLUTION

The participants in the fifth 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, from 6 to 15 September 1999,

Recalling the resolution adopted by MHLC on 19 February 1999, in which the participants in the fourth session of MHLC, inter alia, urged all States and other entities concerned to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any total expansion of fishing efforts and capacity and to apply the precautionary approach forthwith,

Noting the advanced stage of negotiations at MHLC towards a Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific,

1. **Decide** that the number of participants in MHLC should not be increased;
2. **Decide further** that requests for participation in MHLC will not be entertained until the draft Convention enters into force;
3. **Agree** to consider applications for observer status as appropriate;
4. **Agree further** that in future members of the proposed Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific ("the Commission") will refrain from consideration of catch history of non-members in the proposed Convention Area during the period of the interim regime in any future decisions by the Commission on allocation.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

15 September 1999