A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 34-GA-02

“Requesting the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement to include in their initiatives that increase the percentages of PNA nationals crewing on permitted fishing vessels, strict and enforceable guidelines to ensure that the PNA member countries’ nationals who are serving as crews on these vessels are adequately compensated for their services.”

1. WHEREAS, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) consist of the countries of the Republic of Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu; and

2. WHEREAS, these eight countries who are Parties to the Nauru Agreement control the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery supplying a major portion of the world’s skipjack tuna; and

3. WHEREAS, the PNA has been a champion for marine conservation and management, taking unilateral action to conserve overfished bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean; and

4. WHEREAS, on the 17th day of July, 2014, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, at its 33rd General Assembly convened in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, adopted APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-02 in which the APIL expressed its sincere gratitude to the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement for their firm and decisive actions taken on behalf of the member countries of the PNA; and
WHEREAS, in that Resolution, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures took cognizance of the fact that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement “still face a number of very significant challenges in their quest to increase the economic benefits of the fishing industry for the participating member countries…”; and

WHEREAS, in its annual meeting held in Pohnpei, FSM in June of this year, the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement continued in their resolve to increase the benefits for the PNA member countries; and

WHEREAS, one of the most noteworthy initiatives adopted by the Ministers of the PNA in its June 2015 meeting was a commitment to expand the percentage of PNA nationals on the crews of permitted purse seiners; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of this initiative, PNA is proposing to enforce mandatory crewing requirements from January 1, 2016 that would lead over a 10-year period to PNA nationals comprising 50 percent of purse seine crews; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is very grateful that the Ministers to the PNA have taken this initiative to increase the percentage of PNA nationals in the purse seine crews, yet the APIL is concerned that in carrying out this mandate, the Ministers to the PNA will take enforceable steps to ensure that the national crews will be adequately compensated for their service on PNA permitted purse seiners; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is not only concerned as to the welfare of our crewmen on purse seiners, but also the welfare of our nationals serving as crewmen on long line fishing vessels and other fishing vessels which are operating in the APIL Pacific; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th General Assembly, July 7-11, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby requests the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement to include in their initiatives that increase the percentages of PNA nationals crewing on permitted fishing vessels, strict and enforceable guidelines to ensure that the PNA member countries’ nationals who are serving as crews on these vessels are adequately compensated for their services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the eight Pacific countries who are Parties to the Nauru Agreement, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement and to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2015.

KENNETH A. KEDI
APIL PRESIDENT

FERNANDO SCALIEM
APIL SECRETARY