APIL Resolution No. 35-GA-15

"Recognizing the threats posed to coastal communities and fisheries by industrial commercial fishing, and calling for the prohibition of such fishing within twelve nautical miles adjacent to and beyond the Twelve Mile Zone within State jurisdiction, equivalent to a contiguous twenty-four nautical miles from the coastal baseline, and for other purposes."

1. **WHEREAS**, the industrial commercial fishing taking place across the respective Exclusive Economic Zones in the Pacific is significantly impacting the availability of particular tuna stocks available to near-shore fisheries; and

2. **WHEREAS**, where industrial commercial fishing occurs close to, or encroaches into the twelve mile State waters, it can have a significant negative impact on the pelagic fishery that coastal fishermen depend on and can have devastating social, economic and environmental consequences across the Pacific; and

3. **WHEREAS**, near-shore fisheries are of paramount importance for food security, health and income of coastal Pacific populations; and

4. **WHEREAS**, the declining state of our islands’ coastal fisheries is prompting the need to increase the area available exclusively to the local fishermen to provide an alternative to the coastal fishing that supports livelihoods across the Pacific populations; and

5. **WHEREAS**, any effective protection and conservation of coastal resources across the Pacific requires a joint and concerted effort through the development of complementary policies
and legislations; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) represent the people of the Pacific and are members of such local communities, and recognize the threat imposed on communities and their coastal resources by the industrial commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the APIL has supported conservation and management efforts in the fisheries sector due to the need to ensure the sustainable utilization of both pelagic and coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, it is the salient responsibility of the members of the APIL of the various islands of the Pacific to help advance legislation that will serve to conserve, protect and preserve the cultures, traditions and livelihoods of the people of the Pacific now and for future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35th General Assembly, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby does hereby recognize the threats posed to coastal communities and their fisheries by industrial commercial fishing and calls for the prohibition of such fishing within twelve nautical miles adjacent to and beyond the Twelve Mile Zone within State jurisdiction, equivalent to a contiguous twenty-four nautical miles from the coastal baseline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President certify and the APIL Secretary attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the State and Municipal governments and the Traditional Leaders of each member
1 jurisdiction of APIL; and to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each
2 member of the Association of the Pacific Islands Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT

FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY