“Expressing the sincere gratitude of the General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) for their firm and decisive actions taken on behalf of the people of the member countries of the PNA; and respectfully requesting the leadership of the PNA to enter into dialogs with the senior fisheries officials of the American affiliated APIL jurisdictions to explore ways by which the PNA can assist these island jurisdictions achieve similar benefits from their ocean resources as are being achieved by the PNA for its member countries.”

WHEREAS, for more than three decades the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, PNA, consisting of the countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Palau, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, have been devoted to increasing the member nations’ economic benefits from the tuna fishery, while expanding management and conservation measures over tuna stocks; and

WHEREAS, these eight Pacific Island countries that are Parties to the Nauru Agreement control the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery supplying fifty percent of the world’s skipjack tuna; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, 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, including closures of high seas pockets, seasonal bans on use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD’s), satellite tracking of boats, in port transshipment, one hundred percent observer coverage of purse seiners, closed areas for conservation, mesh size regulations, tuna catch retention requirements, hard limits on fishing effort, prohibitions against targeting whale sharks, shark action plans, and other conservation measures to protect the marine ecosystem; and

APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-02
WHEREAS, the adoption by the PNA of the FSM Arrangement in 1995 whereby
domestic fleets are given preferred treatment for fishing in the EEZ’s of the member
countries has confirmed the PNA’s commitment to the economic importance of domestic
purse seine development for the PNA countries to promote sustainable national economic
development within the region; and

WHEREAS, the further adoption by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement of the
Palau Arrangement in 2010 has provided for the implementation of a new Vessel Day
Scheme (VDS) for purse seiners fishing in PNA waters which has resulted in a nearly four-
fold increase in revenues to the eight member nations; and

WHEREAS, the most recent meeting of PNA Ministers was held in Majuro,
Marshall Islands in June of 2014, and was attended by Ministers from all eight of the PNA
member countries; and

WHEREAS, during its Majuro meeting, the PNA Ministers agreed to raise the
fishing day fee from the current benchmark of US$6,000 to US$8,000 starting
January 1, 2015 and to cap the number of fishing days available in 2014 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the General Assembly of the Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures that these landmark actions and decisions, most notably made by the
PNA in its Majuro meeting, will certainly help to sustain and conserve tuna resources for the
future while increasing the value of fishing days; and

WHEREAS, while the raising of VDS fees and the capping of the number of fishing
days show great fortitude on the part of the eight PNA Ministers, 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 while at the
same time ensuring responsible resource management and conservation; and
WHEREAS, among these challenges are: (1) the re-negotiations relative to a Pacific nations treaty with the United States on EEZ access by the American fishing fleet to address the requisite payment of the increased VDS fees being imposed by the PNA in 2015; (2) efforts to ensure that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts and applies enforceable measures to effectively conserve and manage tuna stocks in the high seas; and (3) the development of the first VDS for long line fishing vessels operating in PNA waters; and

WHEREAS, as we are all islanders ourselves, the Delegates to the 33rd General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures share in the values expressed by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement to increase the member nations’ economic benefits from the tuna fishery; moreover

WHEREAS, as an assembly of law makers gathered together in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, we are even more conscious of the need to manage and to conserve the tuna stocks within our region, not only for the islanders of today, but, more importantly, for our sons and daughters and their sons and daughters for many generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 33rd General Assembly, July 15 through July 17, 2014, Island of Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, that the APIL General Assembly hereby expresses its sincere gratitude to the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement for their firm and decisive actions taken on behalf of the people of the member countries of the PNA; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 33rd General Assembly of
the APIL, whose membership extends not only to countries that are members of the PNA,
but also to island jurisdictions that are directly affiliated with the United States of America
and thus are not able to become parties to the PNA, respectfully request the leadership of the
PNA to enter into dialogs with the senior fisheries officials of the American affiliated APIL
jurisdictions to explore ways by which the PNA can assist these island jurisdictions achieve
similar benefits from their ocean resources as are being achieved by the PNA for its member
countries; 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 thereafter be
transmitted to the Ministerial Chairman of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, the
Honorable Elisala Pita of Tuvalu; to the PNA Ministers of each of the member countries of
the PNA; and to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member
jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2014.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
PRESIDENT

CHANG WILLIAM
SECRETARY