



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

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
2 countries of the Republic of Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic
3 of Kiribati, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New
4 Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu; and

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

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

11 **WHEREAS**, on the 17th day of July, 2014, the Association of Pacific Island
12 Legislatures, at its 33rd General Assembly convened in the Republic of the Marshall
13 Islands, adopted APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-02 in which the APIL expressed its
14 sincere gratitude to the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement for their firm
15 and decisive actions taken on behalf of the member countries of the PNA; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in that Resolution, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
2 took cognizance of the fact that the Parties to the Nauru Agreement “*still face a*
3 *number of very significant challenges in their quest to increase the economic benefits*
4 *of the fishing industry for the participating member countries....*”; and

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

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is not only
21 concerned as to the welfare of our crewmen on purse seiners, but also the welfare of
22 our nationals serving as crewmen on long line fishing vessels and other fishing
23 vessels which are operating in the APIL Pacific; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th
2 General Assembly, July 7-11, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of
3 Pacific Island Legislatures hereby requests the Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru
4 Agreement to include in their initiatives that increase the percentages of PNA
5 nationals crewing on permitted fishing vessels, strict and enforceable guidelines to
6 ensure that the PNA member countries' nationals who are serving as crews on these
7 vessels are adequately compensated for their services; and

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

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



KENNETH A. KEDI
APIL PRESIDENT



FERNANDO SCALIEM
APIL SECRETARY

