



# 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. 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  
2 Exclusive Economic Zones in the Pacific is significantly impacting the availability of particular  
3 tuna stocks available to near-shore fisheries; and

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

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

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

13           **WHEREAS**, any effective protection and conservation of coastal resources across the  
14 Pacific requires a joint and concerted effort through the development of complementary policies

1 and legislations; and

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

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


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


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

18       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President certify and the APIL  
19 Secretary attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to  
20 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 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2016.**

  
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**KENNETH A. KEDI**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**FERNANDO SCALIEM**  
**SECRETARY**

