



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-19

“Requesting the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to establish a Standing Committee to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including the enforcement and implementation of shark sanctuaries in the region.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the health of the Pacific islands’ ocean ecosystems and the sustainability of
2 its resources, specifically its fisheries, is critical ecologically, economically, and culturally to the
3 region; and

4 **WHEREAS**, illegal fishing deprives coastal communities of jobs and income, harms the
5 environment, and undermines the accuracy of stock assessments and efforts to sustainably
6 manage fisheries, and

7 **WHEREAS**, across the Pacific, vessels landed 3.5 million metric tons of tuna in 2014,
8 and fishermen were paid nearly 6.2 billion dollars (U.S.) for it; and

9 **WHEREAS**, this product went on to generate approximately 28.5 billion dollars (U.S.) at
10 supermarkets and restaurants around the world; and

11 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the APIL that protecting that wealth is a matter of regional
12 security; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a study by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) revealed
14 illegal fishing by licensed fleets is costing Pacific nations more than 600 million dollars (U.S.)
15 per year; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), an international treaty
17 intended to prevent vessels that fish illegally from landing their catch through harmonized port
18 controls, information sharing, and regional cooperation, will enter into force on June 5, 2016;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, the PSMA is a highly cost-effective means to control illegal fishing; and

21 **WHEREAS**, certain fish populations, specifically sharks, which are both targeted and
22 caught as a bycatch, are threatened by overfishing due to the global demand for shark fins, the
23 primary driver of the shark populations decline worldwide; and

1 **WHEREAS**, because sharks grow slowly, are late to mature, and produce few young,
2 they are intrinsically vulnerable to overfishing; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the loss of sharks can result in a cascade of indirect effects due to changes
4 in the abundance of other organisms; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the APIL, recognizing the important role sharks play in the region's waters,
6 passed Resolution No. 53-BOD-04; Resolution No. 32-GA-08, CD1; Resolution No. 30-GA-03,
7 CD1; and Resolution No. 55-BOD-10 over the course of the previous five years; and

8 **WHEREAS**, leaders in the Pacific have fulfilled their commitment to Resolution No. 30-
9 GA-03, CD1 by completing the establishment of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary in
10 2015, which includes the jurisdictions of the Federated States of Micronesia and its four states of
11 Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; State of Hawaii; American Samoa; Republic of Palau; the
12 Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Republic of Kiribati; the Commonwealth of the Northern
13 Mariana Islands and the U.S. Island of Guam; and

14 **WHEREAS**, to ensure the shark protections implemented through the establishment of
15 the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary are effectively enforced, representatives from nine
16 jurisdictions held a two day workshop in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on April 6
17 and 7, 2016, to identify various tools and mechanisms to improve communication and
18 collaboration on enforcement of the regional sanctuary, and to discuss larger fisheries
19 management challenges, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated vessels; and

20 **WHEREAS**, understanding the challenges associated with ensuring enforcement is
21 effective across the entire region, workshop participants strongly agreed that creating a Standing
22 Committee of the APIL will guarantee progress to safeguard the Pacific islands' fisheries is
23 continued into the future; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Article VI of the by-laws of the APIL further provides that "The Board of
25 Directors may, from time to time, appoint standing or special committees, or task forces, as it
26 may deem advisable and shall provide for their powers and duties"; now, therefore,

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures 35th General
28 Assembly, island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, does request the President of the APIL to place on
29 the agenda of the next meeting of the APIL Board of Directors a copy of this Resolution
30 conveying the sense of the 35th General Assembly that the APIL should formally establish and
31 maintain a Standing Committee to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, including
32 the enforcement and implementation of shark sanctuaries in the region; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in preparation for the next Board meeting, the
2 President of the APIL is requested to join together an interim working group of interested
3 individuals of each delegation from within the APIL to prepare a prospectus for the Board of
4 Directors on the opportunities and challenges which will confront this new committee upon its
5 establishment; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President certify and the APIL Secretary
7 attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be transmitted to each member of the
8 APIL Board of Directors; and to the Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction
9 of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT



FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY

