PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC
Third session   WCPFC/PrepCon/22
Manila, Philippines   22 November 2002
18 – 22 November 2002

RESOLUTION OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE RELATING TO ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING AND LIMITS ON FISHING CAPACITY

Recalling the Majuro Declaration of 13 June 1997, in which the participants in the Conference declared their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the region in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

Recalling further the resolution adopted at the Fourth Session of the Multilateral High Level Conference on 19 February 1999, in which the participants, inter alia, urged all States and other entities concerned to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any regional expansion of fishing effort and capacity;

Noting the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention) was adopted on 4 September 2000;

Further noting that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in 1999, and the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) in 2001;

Recognizing the need to apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management and the importance, as a precautionary measure, of limiting the expansion of fishing effort in the region prior to the entry into force of the Convention;

Recognizing further that other regional fisheries management organizations have adopted or are considering stringent measures to limit the growth of fishing capacity and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

Noting existing conservation and management arrangements in the region;

Noting with concern that since 1999 fishing capacity in the region has continued to increase;

Also noting with concern the potential redeployment of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels from other regions into the Convention area; and

Taking into account the interests of small island developing States and territories in developing their national fisheries capacity in accordance with their commitments under international law and instruments;

The participants in the third session of thePreparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean held at Manila, Philippines from 18 to 22 November 2002, resolve to:

1.   *Urge* all States and other entities to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any expansion of fishing effort and capacity in the Convention Area and to apply the precautionary approach forthwith, noting the first report of the Scientific Coordinating Group in terms of the status of stocks.

2.   *Urge* all States and other entities concerned to take every appropriate measure, in accordance with their international obligations and with the IPOA-IUU and other relevant international instruments, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the Convention Area.

3.   *Promote* cooperation between all participants and all other relevant States and regional fisheries management organizations, in exchanging information on the IUU fishing activities and other activities which might undermine the effectiveness of this resolution.

4.   *Take* action as appropriate to disseminate this resolution widely.

5.   *Consider* these issues further at the next meeting of the Preparatory Conference and at subsequent meetings of the Preparatory Conference.

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