
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC**

WCPFC/BP.1/Rev.9
28 January 2004

AGENDA ITEM I : STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

1. It will be recalled that, in accordance with its article 34, the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific was open for signature by the States and entities listed in article 34, paragraph 1, for a period of 12 months from 5 September 2000. As at 4 September 2001, the Convention had been signed by 19 States. In addition, on 5 September 2000 a representative of Chinese Taipei signed an Arrangement for the Participation of Fishing Entities.
2. The annex to the present paper provides information on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention as at 28 January 2004. As at 19 December 2003 thirteen States situated south of the 20° parallel of north latitude had deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the New Zealand Government.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 36, the Convention will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by three of the States situated north of the 20° parallel of north latitude, or on **19 June 2004**, being six months after the deposit of the thirteenth instrument ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, whichever is the earlier.
4. After entry into force, and in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 35, the Convention shall remain open for accession by the States referred to in article 34, paragraph 1, and by any entity referred to in article 305, paragraph 1(c), (d) and (e) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which is situated in the Convention Area. After entry into force, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 35, the Contracting Parties may, by consensus, invite other States and regional economic integration organizations, whose nationals and fishing vessels wish to conduct fishing for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area, to accede to the Convention.

Annex

COUNTRY	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION ^(a)
Australia	30/10/2000	22/09/2003
Canada	02/08/2001	
China		
Cook Islands	05/09/2000	01/10/03
Federated States of Micronesia	05/09/2000	20/12/2002
Fiji Islands	05/09/2000	13/03/2001
France		
Indonesia	31/08/2001	
Japan		
Republic of Kiribati		09/06/2003 ^(a)
Republic of the Marshall Islands	05/09/2000	23/04/2001
Republic of Nauru	18/08/2001	26/08/2003
New Zealand *	05/09/2000	19/12/2003
Niue	30/10/2000	17/12/2003
Republic of Palau	05/09/2000	
Independent State of Papua New Guinea	17/01/2001	17/10/2001
Republic of the Philippines	05/09/2000	
Republic of Korea		
Independent State of Samoa	05/09/2000	09/02/2001
Solomon Islands	23/04/2001	09/06/2003
Kingdom of Tonga	23/04/2001	13/10/2003
Tuvalu	05/09/2000	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands)		
United States of America	05/09/2000	
Republic of Vanuatu	05/09/2000	

* On 19 December 2003, the Government of New Zealand advised that, in accordance with article 43, Tokelau is authorized by the Government of New Zealand to participate in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.