

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**between the Secretariat of
the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
and
the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission**

The Secretariats of both the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Recognising the need to establish a complementary relationship between the two organizations to promote the sustainable use, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling that the function of the FFA as provided for in Article VII of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention is, *inter alia*, to seek to establish working arrangements with relevant regional and international organisations;

Further recalling the FFA mission as defined by its Strategic Plan 2005-2020 is to support and enable its members to achieve sustainable fisheries and the highest levels of social and economic benefits in harmony with the broader environment;

Acknowledging that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Acknowledging the requirement in Article 5 of the WCPF Convention to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in their entirety;

Acknowledging further the role of the WCPF Commission under Article 10 of the WCPF Convention in establishing conservation and management measures for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area as a whole;

Noting that Article 8.1 of the WCPF Convention requires that conservation and management measures established for the high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in their entirety;

Recognising the important role the FFA Secretariat plays in assisting its members to participate effectively in the work of the WCPF Commission, in implementing the obligations of the WCPF Convention and decisions of the WCPF Commission; and in implementing compatible conservation and management measures in the areas under their national jurisdiction as required under Article 8.1 of the WCPF Convention;

Noting Article 22.5 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which provides for the Commission to enter into relationship agreements with other organizations, including the FFA, with a view to obtaining the best available scientific and other fisheries-related information to further the attainment of the objectives of the WCPF Convention and to minimise duplication with respect to their work;

Desiring to put in place an arrangement to support the implementation of Article VII(e) of the FFA Convention and Article 22 of the WCPF Convention, the FFA and the WCPF Secretariat record the following understandings:

1. In order to maximise the effectiveness of their scientific, compliance and other activities, the FFA Secretariat and the WCPFC Secretariat agree, within the scope of Article 22.5 of the WCPF Convention and Article VI of the FFA Convention, to exchange information relating to their activities and programmes of work on highly migratory fish stocks and associated and dependent species in the Pacific Islands region, subject to arrangements concerning the confidentiality of information held by each organisation on behalf of its members. .
- 2.. The WCPFC and the FFA agree to hold a meeting between the two Secretariats at least once annually at a venue and time that minimises the cost of participation, for the purpose of exchanging information on activities of mutual interest, and to explore ways of minimising duplication of their work.
3. Where necessary, and at the request of either Secretariat, this Memorandum of Understanding may be reviewed and amended. Any such amendment shall take effect upon signature by the Director-General of the FFA and the Executive Director of the WCPFC.
4. Either party may terminate this MOU by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.
5. This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

Signed and duly dated:

Daniela Su'a
Director-General
Forum Fisheries Agency

Andrew Wright
Executive Director
Commission for the Conservation of Highly
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and
Central Pacific Ocean Ok

Date: _____

Date: _____