

R+D

A RESOLUTION

Requesting that the Micronesian Maritime Authority immediately put into effect a moratorium on all foreign fishing activities in the Federated States of Micronesia and not renew any foreign fishing agreements, permits or licenses after their expiration.

1 WHEREAS, fish and other marine resources in the territorial waters
2 of the Federated States of Micronesia are potentially the most valuable
3 natural resources of the Nation and its greatest potential source of
4 revenue; and

5 WHEREAS, these valuable marine resources are subject to depletion
6 by overfishing and destruction by environmental factors; and

7 WHEREAS, these vulnerable marine resources must be protected and
8 husbanded for their maximum benefit to the Nation both now and for
9 future generations; and

10 WHEREAS, these marine resources are part of a complex and fragile
11 ecosystem particularly vulnerable to abuse and destruction by
12 improvident human activities such as illegal dumping of toxic,
13 hazardous and other waste materials; and

14 WHEREAS, certain foreign fishing activities are known to have
15 violated certain of the Federated States of Micronesia's fishing and
16 pollution control laws and regulations, therefore endangering these
17 valuable marine resources; and

18 WHEREAS, established by public record the licensing fees which
19 foreign fishermen now pay to the Federated States of Micronesia to fish
20 in the Nation's territorial waters are grossly lower than comparable
21 fees; and

22 WHEREAS, foreign fishermen do not now generally provision their
23 ships in the Federated States of Micronesia and thus deprive the Nation
24 of substantial revenues from that source; and

25 WHEREAS, foreign fishermen do not now generally refuel their ships

1 in the Federated States of Micronesia and thus deprive the Nation of
2 substantial revenues from that source; and

3 WHEREAS, foreign fishermen generally do not use Federated States of
4 Micronesia manpower for stevedoring their vessels, resulting in still
5 further financial losses to the Nation; and

6 WHEREAS, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia as the
7 elected representative of the Federated States of Micronesia people must
8 convey to the executive branch the people's increasing concern that the
9 Nation's fish and other valuable marine resources are not being
10 adequately protected, husbanded or valued; now, therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Congress of the Federated States of
12 Micronesia, First Special Session, 1994, that the Micronesian Maritime
13 Authority immediately put into effect a moratorium on all foreign
14 fishing activities in the territorial waters of the Federated States
15 of Micronesia, where legal and practicable, and not renew any foreign
16 fishing permits, licenses or other agreements which may now be in
17 effect, following the expiration of such permits, licenses or other
18 agreements; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be
20 transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and
21 the Executive Director of the Micronesian Maritime Authority.

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23 Date: 2-28-94

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Introduced by:


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