

R+D

A RESOLUTION

Calling for a moratorium on the licensing of any and all foreign fishing vessels, other than those that have applications presently pending before the Micronesian Maritime Authority; for a reassessment of the national fishing industry, especially with regard to the area of enforcement of regulatory provisions in cooperation with neighboring countries; and for a review of the terms of existing agreements with foreign business entities engaged in fishing activities in the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia, in order to improve the economic benefits to the nation and protect the environment.

1           WHEREAS, the fisheries within the waters of the Exclusive  
2 Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia represent a  
3 natural resource of immeasurable value to the nation, and a  
4 primary source of revenue upon which the sustainable development  
5 of the nation will depend in the future; and

6           WHEREAS, the National Government, through the Micronesian  
7 Maritime Authority (MMA), has licensed a large number of foreign  
8 vessels to fish within those waters, in exchange for the payment  
9 of fees which represent only a small fraction of the value of the  
10 catch those vessels remove; and

11           WHEREAS, the long term impact of this depletion of this most  
12 precious resource is undetermined, and the sustainable use of the  
13 fisheries is of the highest priority to the future development of  
14 the fishing industry in the Federated States of Micronesia; now,  
15 therefore,

16           BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Congress of the Federated  
17 States of Micronesia, Third Special Session, 1995, that there be  
18 imposed a moratorium, to last for a period of thirty months, on  
19 the licensing of foreign fishing vessels, excepting only those  
20 with applications pending before MMA; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Government, through  
22 the appropriate authorities, undertake to reassess the entire  
23 fishing industry, with special emphasis on cooperative enforcement  
24 with neighboring countries of fishing laws, and to critically  
25 review the terms of existing agreements with any and all foreign

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1 business entities engaged in fishing activities in the waters of  
2 the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia,  
3 in order to improve the economic benefits to the nation and  
4 strengthen the obligations of those business entities to protect  
5 our nation's environment; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States  
8 of Micronesia, the Attorney General of the Federated States of  
9 Micronesia, the Secretary of the Department of Resources and  
10 Development, and the Director of the Micronesian Maritime  
11 Authority.

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Date: 3/20/95

Introduced by:   
Dohsis Halbert