

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUĀHAN
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Executive Committee
Resolution No. 53

Introduced by:

James V. Espaldon
Edward J.B. Calvo
A. R. Unpingco
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Mark Forbes
Judith Paulette Guthertz
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
D. L.G. Shimizu
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat

Relative to congratulating the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council on its Thirtieth (30th) Anniversary Celebration and to commending the Council for its diligent efforts to manage fisheries in the exclusive economic zone around the Hawaii U.S. Pacific island insular areas and possessions, an area of nearly 1.5 million square miles.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I***
2 ***MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUĀHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS,** the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
4 is the policy-making organization for fishery management in the exclusive

1 economic zone (EEZ, generally three (3) to two hundred (200) miles offshore)
2 around American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern
3 Mariana Islands and the U.S. Pacific island possessions - an area of nearly 1.5
4 million square miles; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Council is one of eight (8) regional councils in the
6 United States, which were established under the Magnuson Fishery
7 Conservation and Management Act of 1976, otherwise known as the
8 Magnuson-Stevens Act; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Western Pacific Council has thirteen (13) voting and
10 three (3) non-voting members. Half of the members are appointed by the U.S.
11 Secretary of Commerce to represent fishing and related regional interests
12 while others are state, territorial and federal officials with fishery
13 management responsibilities; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the council protects fishery resources and maintains
15 opportunities for domestic fishing at sustainable levels by monitoring
16 fisheries within its region; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the council prepares and modifies fishery management
18 plans as needed. Its regulations are enforced jointly by the National Marine
19 Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard and deputized state and territorial
20 agencies; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the council encourages cooperative fishery management
22 among the islands and fishing nations throughout the Pacific; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the council has developed an archipelagic ecosystem
24 fishery management plan in Guam, the CNMI and American Samoa which
25 established regional ecosystem advisory committees (REACs), which consist

1 of fishermen, fish processors, local community leaders, local government
2 officials, non-government organizations involved in conservation and
3 individuals interested in the preservation of fish and fishing in the U.S. Pacific
4 Islands; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the council encourages community participation in Natural
6 Resource Management working with the Mayors in Guam, the Mayors and
7 traditional chiefs in the CNMI and the traditional Chiefs in American Samoa;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Council supports the Western Pacific Fishery
10 Information Network (WPacFIN), the fishery data collection efforts of Guam,
11 in hopes of encouraging fishermen to provide information regarding local
12 fishing habits and to ensure that fishery resources are managed for the benefit
13 of the Pacific indigenous people; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the council has required that Longline operators use
15 specific mitigation gear to assist the release of sea turtles they accidentally
16 capture; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Council has championed the prohibition of drift gillnet
18 fishing, bottom trawling and other non-discriminatory and destructive fishing
19 methods in 1986; successfully advocated legislation to put highly migratory
20 fish species, such as tuna, under federal jurisdiction; and has achieved many
21 other milestones such as requiring fishing vessels to keep logbooks and to
22 carry observers to monitor by catch and interactions with protected species,
23 and the creation of a 50 nm longline exclusion zone around the northwestern
24 Hawaiian Islands to protect endangered Hawaiian monk seals; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Council assisted the United States in hosting four (4) of
2 seven (7) conferences that led to the first international fishery management
3 treaty for the central and western Pacific and established the first
4 international fishery commission to oversee migratory fish stocks; and

5 **WHEREAS**, further work by the council included a host of major
6 international workshops on the Pacific sea turtle, implementation of a sea
7 turtle conservation plan and the organization of several international
8 conferences to develop environmentally responsible longline gear, for
9 domestic and foreign fleets; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Council developed the nation's first ecosystem-based
11 FMP, the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP and has co-hosted international
12 conferences to reduce the worldwide problem of marine debris; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, the Council successfully promoted legislation in
14 Congress under the MSA to protect the rights of native Pacific Islanders thru
15 the Western Pacific Community Demonstration Project Program (CDPP),
16 which promotes traditional fishing practices and encourages native
17 communities to use federal programs to advance their traditional, cultural
18 practices through grant writing, project planning and community
19 organization; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in American Samoa, the Council established a longline
21 limited entry program, that protects smaller vessel fisheries by restricting
22 operations by pelagic fishing vessels greater than fifty (50) feet in length and
23 establishes a no take MPAs around Rose Atoll; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the American Samoa Archipelago CDPP Project will create
25 in a new era of fishermen with the construction of a Cold Storage Installation

1 Project that will process locally caught tuna and bottom fish for sale to local
2 and export market; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, the Council successfully promoted indigenous
4 Pacific Islanders fishery rights through in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens
5 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, including a mandate to consider
6 traditional knowledge as well as Western science in the management of
7 fisheries and to create educational and training opportunities for indigenous
8 Pacific Islanders; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the CNMI, the council has developed a longline
10 exclusion zone around the CNMI to protect small boat fisheries from gear
11 interaction; and

12 **WHEREAS**, and ongoing program in the CNMI includes the Saipan
13 Traditional Fishing Education Project with community elder Lino Olopai
14 teaching traditional fishing methods to youths; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Council is negotiating to locate a site for the Saipan
16 Fishermen’s Cooperative project, goal of which is to increase opportunities
17 and market access shore-based and boat fishermen who catch reef and
18 pelagic fish; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Council is helping to restore traditional fishing in Rota
20 through the Traditional Fishing Practices for *Chamorros* and Carolinians-Rota
21 Project in which master fisherman Stan Taisacan teaches this fishing style, as
22 well as how to use traps and nets, spear fishing, and how to manufacture
23 gear; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on Guam, the Council helped modify the current fifty (50)
2 plus nautical mile longline exclusion area to encourage domestic longline
3 fishery; and

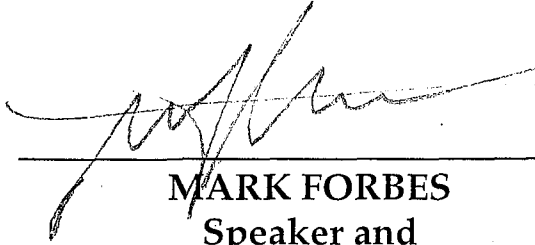
4 **WHEREAS**, through the CDPP, the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative
5 Association received funds for its Deep-Set Longline Project to purchase and
6 outfit a sixty (60) foot vessel to train local fishermen how to engage in pelagic
7 fishing within the U.S. exclusive economic zone around Guam; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na*
10 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guåhan* and the
11 people of Guam, join in the observation of the Thirtieth (30th) Anniversary of
12 the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's formation and;
13 be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na*
15 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend
16 the Council for its diligent efforts to manage and promote fisheries in the
17 exclusive economic zone around American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the
18 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and U.S. Pacific island
19 possessions, an area of nearly 1.5 million square miles; be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive
21 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
22 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Kitty
23 Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management
24 Council; to member representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
25 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THE 9TH
DAY OF MARCH 2007.



MARK FORBES
Speaker and
Chairman, Executive Committee



EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and
Acting Secretary of the Legislature