A RESOLUTION

Recommending that the National Oceanic Resources Management Authority observe a one year moratorium on the issuance of new commercial fishing licenses to purse seine vessels as part of a precautionary approach to fisheries management.

WHEREAS, during the recent meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Honolulu, Hawaii from December 6 to 10, 2010, over 400 delegates and observers from Pacific nations and territories as well as the European Commission were unable to reach a consensus on the key issues relating to over fishing of Pacific bigeye or to capping purse-seine fishing capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Section 101 of title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia states in part that the resources of the sea must be managed, conserved, and developed for the benefit of the people living today and for the generations of citizens to come, and for this reason the harvesting of this resource must be monitored, and when necessary, controlled; and

WHEREAS, Section 204 of title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia authorizes the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) to issue regulations for the conservation, management, and exploitation of fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone; and
WHEREAS, in order to maintain the current level of fishing effort in the FSM waters, Congress recommends a one-year moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to purse seine vessels; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Sixth Regular Session, 2011, that the Congress hereby recommends that the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority observe a one year moratorium on the issuance of new commercial fishing licenses to purse seine vessels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority and the Governor of each State.

Date: 1/27/11

Introduced by: /s/ Dion G. Neth

Dion G. Neth