



Parties to the Nauru Agreement
P.O. Box 3992, Uliga Dock
Majuro, Marshall Islands (MH) 96960
Phone: (692) 625-7626/7627

15 March 2022

Press Release – Outcomes of the Annual Meetings of Officials of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement

The annual meetings of Officials of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, held virtually last week, ended on Friday, with the Chief Executive Officer of the PNA Office, Dr. Sangaa Clark, reporting that the Officials had found 2021 another generally successful year for the PNA.

The year was challenging for PNA fisheries administrations as they worked together to limit the effects of the COVID pandemic on PNA tuna fisheries and avoid infections being transmitted to their populations from vessels involved in the fisheries. The pandemic had been damaging in 2021 because of the economic losses to port activity and the loss of observer livelihoods and contribution to managing the fisheries.

However, the purse seine fisheries had been able to continue to operate at a normal level, which was important because of the importance of canned tuna products from this fleet to global food security, and because the revenue from the purse seine fishery to PNA and Tokelau had also been maintained at recent levels at a time when member governments' finances were being stretched. Dr. Clark expressed appreciation to all those involved who had contributed to this very important achievement.

The CEO said that Parties were proud of the achievement of the PNAO in moving into its new Headquarters Building at Uliga Dock in Majuro, and appreciated the smooth transition of leadership from the outgoing CEO, Mr Ludwig Kumoru. The meeting noted the continuing improvements in the financial and business management and reporting of the Office, and the strengthening of the PNAO staff.

The meeting reviewed the technical, commercial and policy programmes of the Office. Decisions were taken to continue to strengthen the purse seine and longline Vessel Day Schemes that are the core business of the Office, and which continued to operate successfully in 2021. Reviews of the FSM Arrangement for preferential access for domestic vessels and the PNA Observer Agency had recommended the strengthening and expansion of these important programmes.

Officials welcomed the scientific advice that the 4 major tropical tuna stocks in the region continued to be healthy, and that the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) is the only oceanic region in the world where none of the key tuna stocks are assessed to be overfished or experiencing overfishing. This outcome reflected both the effectiveness of the key tropical tuna measure of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the effectiveness of PNA measures based on the Vessel Day Schemes, since most of the WCPO catch is taken in the waters of PNA and Tokelau. Improvements to reporting requirements on FADs and upgrading of the current PNA FAD Tracking trial to a mandatory FAD Registration and Tracking Programme being implemented in 2022 and 2023

would enable more effective management, by PNA and Tokelau, of the valuable fishery on FADs in their waters. Officials also supported proposals from SPC and the PNAO to step up PNA engagement in action on climate change.

Looking ahead, overall, 2022 looked like being another challenging but rewarding year for PNA and Tokelau, said Dr. Clark.