MANAGING A GLOBAL FOOD RESOURCE:
A Fisheries Commission and Convention for the Pacific

Almost half of the world’s annual tuna catch – around 2 million tonnes a year, comes from the waters of the Pacific, and mostly from the Western and Central Pacific region which includes the many islands of the Pacific, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Good management of that huge natural resource involves all 17 Pacific Islands members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and other fishing nations – jurisdiction as set out by an international convention called the United Nations Law of the Sea.

To guard against overfishing and ensure oceanic fishing for the future, the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean was opened for signature in Hawaii, in 2000, after many years of meetings.

The Convention aims for one key goal: making sure that the Pacific Ocean, as host to the world’s richest source of tuna, will provide fish and fishing revenues to Pacific people into the future. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), implements and monitors the Convention from its secretariat in the Federated States of Micronesia.

PACIFIC POSTCARD:
Food to millions living on small islands, tuna are critical to economic growth in the Pacific, worth US $4 billion a year.

FISH IN DANGER

There are just over 20 species of tuna in the world’s oceans. The four species most found in Pacific waters are also the basis of the regional commercial fisheries: skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore.
The largest stocks of tuna and related species in the world migrate across the world's largest geographic feature, the Pacific Ocean with large populations the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The Convention area shown falls under the legal control of the WCPFC member nations, most being Pacific Island countries. Between them, the 17 Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency member nations are custodians of an area of some 30 million square kilometres, about 10 percent of the Earth's surface.

Regional cooperation is important so that all Pacific countries benefit from the sustainable use of our tuna worth over $4 billion a year and important for many people's livelihoods in the Pacific

Dr Transform Aqorau, Solomon Islands Deputy Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

MORE INFORMATION: Oceanic Fisheries Management Project: www.fla.int/gef or email barbara.hardard@ffai.int
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