

## Papua New Guinea Proposal

### Article 18 – Conservation and Management Measures

Mr Chairman, I would like to suggest some modifications to Article 18 – in particular paragraph 4 - to ensure the process for setting total allowable catches takes full account of the need to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

The current objective of the draft Convention promotes an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management of the resources to be managed under the Convention. We fully support implementation of an ecosystem approach through this Convention - and see this agreement on the non-highly migratory fish stocks as being complementary to other agreements that have already been made to responsibly manage the highly migratory fish stocks in the Pacific.

Mr Chairman, we are particularly concerned about the possible impacts of harvesting large fractions of the small pelagic biomass in the south Pacific, **without** full regard being given to the possible trophic impacts on other associated and dependent species in the ecosystem, in particular the larger pelagic species that support large and critically important tuna fisheries for many Pacific Island countries and their peoples.

We do not think that, in its current form, Article 18(4) adequately covers this concern, so we suggest an amendment to paragraph 4(g), to insert the words “including trophic interactions” ... after the words relevant environmental factors...

The paragraph would then read... “relevant environmental factors, including trophic interactions which may have an effect upon the fishery resource and associated or dependent species”

Mr Chairman, we consider that this suggested amendment will ensure that the proposed TAC setting process will take into account the degree of uncertainty over trophic interactions and in particular the need to afford adequate protection of an appropriate fraction of the available small pelagic biomass - for other species in the food web that rely on them as a food source.

Thank you Chairman