

MEMBERS OF THE WCPFC



*PACIFIC POSTCARD:
General view of a WCPFC committee meeting*



THE WCPFC: A GLOBAL NETWORK

Full members: the Contracting Parties to the Convention: The membership base of the WCPFC comes Pacific Island countries and countries that traditionally fish in the Pacific. Pacific members led that early call for membership, with 14 of the 25 launch signatories to the WCPF Convention members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (12 Small Islands Developing States, or SIDS), Australia and New Zealand.

In the case of the seven Pacific territories, their **Participating territories** status allows them participation and speaking rights at the Commission meetings.

Cooperating non-members: States with an interest in fishing in the West and Central Pacific area who did not sign the Convention. They need the consensus or

full agreement of the contracting members to join. They are also called Non-parties, or non-contracting co-operating Parties. They may first request observer status to the Commission and make an application for Cooperating non-member status, which is tabled at the annual meeting of the Commission.

Observers: Intergovernmental, non-governmental, other regional fishing bodies, or States with an interest in the Convention or linked to its work, are able to apply for Observer status to the WCPFC at any time up to 50 days before a WCPFC session. They are allowed to attend but do not have voting rights, and can only speak if invited to do so by the session Chair. They can give written statements to the WCPFC secretariat for distribution to members of the Commission.



MEMBERS

Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Community, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu



PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna



OBSERVERS OF THE WCPFC

- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIF)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)
- Greenpeace
- Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)



SIGNED, SEALED, ACCEDED...
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Signing an international convention like the WCPFC often signals the end of one long process and the beginning of another.

In **SIGNING**, States are saying they consent and intend to take steps to be bound by the Convention at a later date. Signing also creates an obligation to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the treaty in the meantime.

In **RATIFYING**, States give a legal commitment to implement the Convention subject to valid reservations, understandings and declarations.

In **ACCEEDING**, States are legally bound to implement the Convention.

MEMBERS (AS AT 26/03/2007)		SIGNATURE DATE	RATIFICATION DATE	ENTRY INTO FORCE
	New Zealand	05/09/2000	19/12/2003	19/06/2004
	Australia	30/10/2000	22/09/2003	19/06/2004
	Canada	02/08/2001	01/11/2005	01/12/2005
	People's Republic of China		02/12/2004 (accession)	02/12/2004
	Cook Islands	05/09/2000	01/10/2003	19/06/2004
	European Community		20/12/2004 (accession)	20/01/2005
	Federated States of Micronesia	05/09/2000	20/12/2003	19/06/2004
	Fiji Islands	05/09/2000	13/03/2001	19/06/2004
	France		12/06/2005 (accession)	12/06/2005
	Indonesia	31/08/2001		
	Japan		08/07/2005 (accession)	08/08/2005
	Republic of Kiribati		09/06/2003 (accession)	19/06/2004
	Republic of Korea	5/09/2000	26/10/2004 (accession)	26/11/2004
	Republic of the Marshall Islands	05/09/2000	23/04/2001	19/06/2004
	Republic of Nauru	05/09/2000	26/08/2003	19/06/2004
	Niue	5/09/2000	17/12/2003	19/06/2004
	Republic of Palau	17/10/2001	02/11/2005	02/12/2005
	Independent State of Papua New Guinea	5/09/2000	17/10/2001	19/06/2004
	Republic of the Philippines	5/09/2000	17/06/2005	17/07/2005
	The Independent State of Samoa	23/04/2001	9/02/2001	19/06/2004
	Solomon Islands	5/09/2000	09/06/2003	19/06/2004
	Chinese Taipei			
	Kingdom of Tonga	23/04/2001	13/10/2003	19/06/2004
	Tuvalu	5/09/2000	13/04/2004	19/06/2004
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5/09/2000		19/06/2004
	The United States of America	05/09/2000	27/06/2007	27/07/2007
	Republic of Vanuatu	23/04/2001	06/10/2005	06/11/2005

Fisheries represents one of the region's strongest drivers for sustainable economic growth. As a source of both export revenue and food security, efforts must continue to maintain regional solidarity among Forum Members in their management of these fish stocks, particularly tuna.

Forum Communiqué, 38th PIF, Nuku'alofa, October 2007

MORE INFORMATION: Oceanic Fisheries Management Project: www.ffa.int/gef or email barbara.hanchard@ffa.int

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency: www.ffa.int or email info@ffa.int. **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:** www.wcpfc.int or email wfpc@mail.fm.



FFA



GEF



WWF



UNDP

QUOTE: HYPHENBANK: <http://www.forumsec.gov.fj/resources/article/files/2007%20Forum%20Communiqu%20-%202007-10-26>