

**CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF HIGH SEAS FISHERIES RESOURCES
IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

The CONTRACTING PARTIES,

Committed to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur;

Recalling relevant international law as reflected in the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* of 10 December 1982, the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* of 4 December 1995 and the *Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas* of 24 November 1993 and taking into account the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO") at its 28th session on 31 October 1995 as well as the *International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas* adopted by FAO on 29 August 2008;

Noting the call from the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 to take steps to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and associated species from significant adverse impacts of destructive fishing practices and its resolution 60/31 encouraging States, as appropriate, to recognize that the general principles of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* of 4 December 1995 should also apply to discrete fish stocks in the high seas;

Recognizing the necessity to collect scientific data in order to understand the marine biodiversity and ecology in the region and to assess the impacts of fisheries on marine species and vulnerable marine ecosystems;

Conscious of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment, to preserve biodiversity, to maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems, and to minimize the risk of long-term or irreversible effects of fishing operations;

Concerned about possible adverse impacts of unregulated bottom fishing activities on marine species and vulnerable marine ecosystems on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean;