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**NAAN IN KAMOLOL**



Moktata, kamolol Anij kon karok im bebe ko an remmon non kij woj kajojo. Ilo etan Mary im ajiri ro nejier ro **Edward Eddie Jormelu**, koba family eo an jinen im jemen Eddie, jej bok ien in emman im lewoj naan in kamolol elap jen maron in ba non froij ro an Eddie, dri kaki in kabun ro, droulul ko kajojo im aolep ro im rar kobatok im buromoj tok ilo jako in an Eddie. Jeban ba etami woj kajojo, ak men eo jemaron in ba dre in ke kom kanuj in emmol im bar juon allen, Anij en kojerammon kom woj kajojo.

*Ilo etan Mary im ajiri ro, kab familiy ko jimor an jinen im jeman Eddie, John Silk im Roland Calvin.*

# PNA to take tough stand on high seas fishing

With just two weeks until fishing nations and Pacific Islands meet at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) said it will not bow to pressure to open the high seas to foreign fishing.

Each year the WCPFC — also known as the Tuna Commission — brings together Pacific island countries, Asian nations, the United States, European Union and other foreign fishers to meet and decide rules for fishing of tuna throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. This is the world's largest tuna fishery, supplying 50 percent of the global tuna supply.

This year the Commission must decide on a conservation and management measure for tuna at its annual meeting from March 26-30 at the Hyatt Regency in Guam.

Over recent months, distant water fishing nations, including the Philippines and Asian countries, have been announcing their plan to lobby the Tuna Commission to reverse conservation measures it adopted in recent years as a result of PNA enforcing these requirements for any country that wants to fish in the eight nation members' waters.

Overfishing of bigeye tuna, a popular sashimi fish, caught by longliner and as bycatch in purse seine fishing, is a problem in the region, despite healthy levels



**Parties to the Nauru Agreement Chief Executive Officer Dr. Transform Aqorau who said: "The PNA high seas closure is non-negotiable."**

of other tunas such as skipjack tuna, which is commonly used for canned tuna, said the

Majuro based PNA office. Recent scientific studies indicate the PNA's closure of high seas areas bordering their national waters together with other measures had a significant effect in reducing bigeye tuna catch.

"In 2008, PNA decided to close high seas to foreign fishing vessels, a move that was a world first, leading the way in conservation," said PNA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Transform Aqorau.

"The WCPFC members also supported this high seas closure that year.

"While recently, some members have been talking about reopening the high seas, this is a vital part of PNA's conservation and management of tuna. The PNA high seas closure is non-negotiable."

Aqorau said, "Fishing nations should know that no matter what happens at the WCPFC, the high seas around PNA countries will remain closed.

"Rather than pressuring us to reduce our conservation and management standards, the PNA is calling on the distant water fishing nations to increase their standards by taking voluntary conservation and management measures this year at WCPFC."



## Fred Pacific audit action coming

Former Nitijela senator Frederick Muller and canoe program director Alson Kelen attended a workshop on Strengthening of Democratic Institutions in the Pacific hosted in Brisbane, Australia, jointly by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Muller said one important accountability development coming out of the talks was a plan by the Commonwealth Secretariat "to launch a new project on performance audits on procurement processes in all Pacific countries."

In the RMI, audits have identified the procurement area as a source of corruption and fraud.

Although the RMI, FSM, and Palau are not members of the Commonwealth, representation from these countries at the Brisbane meeting was made possible through the Forum Secretariat and funded by the Commonwealth.

"A follow up meeting is expected to be held in Fiji in June," Muller said.

"The meeting in summary touched on experiences and lessons learned on diverse political systems, electoral processes, and accountability and public accounts committees."

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