

Submission to the SPRFMO Interim Secretariat on the Convention Northern boundary, from the Cook Islands and Fiji.

8th Consultation on the formation of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Auckland, New Zealand, 13 November 2009

The preferred position of the northern boundary of the Convention area for Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members was 20°N, in the western part of the Convention area (the area to the west of the 150° meridian of west longitude). This northern boundary was preferred for the reasons outlined in the proposal submitted by the Cook Islands, specifically to include all FFA members within the Convention area and to ensure no gaps were left on the high seas adjacent to all FFA member countries.

As the northern boundary preferred by FFA members was not adopted in the Convention, Fiji and the Cook Islands wish to advise the interim SPRFMO Secretariat and participants in Auckland of a possible proposal in the future to amend the northern boundary to encompass the high seas areas adjacent to the exclusive economic zones of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau.