(iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and

(iv) other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments;

(i) "Fishing activities" means:

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking or harvesting of fisheries resources;

(ii) engaging in any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in locating, catching, taking or harvesting of these resources for any purpose;

(iii) the processing of these resources at sea and the transshipping of these resources at sea or in port; and

(iv) any operation at sea in direct support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (i) to (iii) above, except for any operation related to emergencies involving the health and safety of crew members or the safety of fishing vessels;

(j) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of engaging in fishing activities, including fish processing vessels, support ships, carrier vessels and any other vessel directly engaged in such fishing activities;

(k) "IUU fishing" refers to the activities as set out in paragraph 3 of the 2001 FAO *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, and other activities as may be decided by the Commission;

(l) "Precautionary approach" means the precautionary approach as specified in Article 6 of the 1995 Agreement;

(m)"Regional economic integration organization" means a regional economic integration organization to which its member States have transferred competence over matters covered by this Convention, including the authority to make decisions binding on its member States in respect of those matters; and

(n) "Transshipment" means the unloading of any fisheries resources or products of fisheries resources taken in the Convention Area from one fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

Article 2
Objective

The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.

Article 3
General Principles

In giving effect to the objective of this Convention, the following actions shall be taken individually or collectively as appropriate:

(a) promoting the optimum utilization and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

(b) adopting measures, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional or global;

(c) adopting and implementing measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries, and in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, in particular as reflected in the 1982 Convention, the 1995 Agreement and other relevant international instruments;

(d) assessing the impacts of fishing activities on species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks and adopting, where necessary, conservation and management measures for such species with a view to maintaining or restoring the populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

(e) protecting biodiversity in the marine environment, including by preventing significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, taking into account any relevant international standards or guidelines including the FAO International Guidelines;

(f) preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity, and ensuring that levels of fishing effort or harvest levels are based on the best scientific information available and do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fisheries resources;

(g) ensuring that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities, including with respect to all target and non-target species within the Convention Area, are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

(h) ensuring that any expansion of fishing effort, development of new or exploratory fisheries, or change in the gear used for existing fisheries, does not proceed