

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**Donald A. Manzullo (IL-16), Ranking Member**  
**Opening Statement**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this hearing regarding the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. I know this an issue that is important to you and the district that you represent.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty, which includes a total of 17 nations, is a legal framework that has effectively governed the harvest of tuna for the past 20 years. In fact, the Treaty is a keystone of the special relationship between the United States and the South Pacific, and it has contributed positively to the economic development of South Pacific nations. However, despite the usefulness of this Treaty for the past two decades, the future of this fishery is under greater pressure today than ever before.

Looking towards the future, it is important that the South Pacific Tuna Treaty remain the primary mechanism for regulating tuna harvests. The positive participation by the American tuna fishing fleet under the Treaty is a success story that should be replicated more broadly. Last year, the American fishing industry paid almost \$6 million to the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency for the right to harvest tuna in the South Pacific. This amount is in addition to the \$18 million that the U.S. Government contributes annually under the Treaty. The U.S. should not deviate from this working multilateral framework and enter into separate agreements with individual states; all parties must be held to the same standard.

Before the renegotiation of the Treaty commences later this year, it is critical to account for the increased pressure that non-Treaty nations are putting on the tuna fisheries in the South Pacific. In addition, any renegotiation that fundamentally weakens the U.S. fishing fleet's ability to compete in this industry should be avoided. The fact is that fishing boats from other countries do not have the same level of respect or sound management practices as American fishing vessels. American fisherman should not be penalized for playing by the rules. When it comes to a valuable natural resource such as tuna, care must be exercised so that we do no harm.

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee. I look forward to your testimony.