

A RESOLUTION

Ratifying the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

1 WHEREAS, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater
2 Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) was adopted on November 02, 2001, by
3 the member states of UNESCO to better protect their submerged
4 cultural heritage; and

5 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is to preserve sites
6 in situ, to stop commercial exploitation and illicit trafficking
7 or unethical recovery of underwater cultural heritage of sites and
8 artifacts, and to ensure that where excavation is permitted, it is
9 carried out in accordance with international best practice; and

10 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Convention is consistent with how
11 sites in the Federated States of Micronesia and particularly the
12 World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk should be managed, given
13 dive tourism is an important industry in the economy of the
14 region; and

15 WHEREAS, the World War II sites or shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon
16 need assistance in managing these internationally significant
17 sites as the current management is ineffective and the sites
18 continue to suffer and threaten the livelihood of the people of
19 Chuuk with serious and hazardous environmental impacts of imminent
20 oil leakage; and

