Government of the Confederated Islands of Hiroot

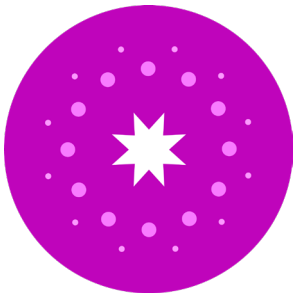
The Confederated Islands of Hiroot, often referred to as Hiroot, consists of 550 small islands extending 1,700 miles across the Elljay archipelago east of Almans. The islands are home to a diverse population of ethnolinguistic groups, though English has become the common language. The main exports of Hiroot are fish, kava, and betel nut, shipping mostly to Uzan and the United States. In return, Hiroot imports food, manufactured goods, and fuel with over 50% of its imports coming from the United States.

Hiroot gained its independence from Uzan in 1981. The country is a member of multiple UN organizations and is party to several environmental agreements. Hiroot signed a Free Association Compact with the United States in 1985 that is still in force. The United States has full authority and responsibility for the defense of Hiroot. Under the compact, Hiroots can live, work, and study in the United States with a visa. Hiroots can also volunteer to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Over the next decade, Hiroot will receive about $60 million a year in assistance from the United States.

As a Pacific Island nation, Hiroot has 1.3 million square miles of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in its control. Thus, the ocean is a huge provider of income and stability for the people, economy, and the government of Hiroot. As a result, the fishing industry is indispensable. The citizens of Hiroot use 35% of the fish caught in its EEZ as a local food supply.

Foreign commercial fishing fleets pay over $14 million annually for the right to operate in the Hiroot's territorial waters. These licensing fees account for 28% of Hiroot's revenue. Exports of marine products, mainly to Uzan, account for nearly 85% of export revenue. The government of Hiroot endeavors to be an effective guardian and manager of the marine resources in its EEZ by ensuring resources are sustainable. In addition, Hiroot plans to obtain the maximum economic benefit by processing fishing licenses to vessels wishing to fish in Hiroot's large and tuna-rich EEZ. Hiroot discourages illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and is in favor of closing unregulated high seas areas in the hopes of reducing pressure on fish stocks and increasing the demand for fishing access in its EEZ.

Since such a large portion of the country's income comes from the collection of fees for foreign fishing licenses, it is important that Hiroot be visible and effective in enforcement of its fishing laws. However,



FAST FACTS

Member of a

Free Association Compact

with the **USA**

1.3M

square miles of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

ECONOMY

Exports

Fish

Kava

Betel Nut

there are problems in providing fuel for the patrol boats that are supposed to police Hiroot's EEZ. The maritime enforcement officers often receive notice of an illegal fishing vessel, but they may not have the fuel to send the patrol boats to catch the perpetrators.

Opening Position

- Hiroot needs resources and funding to protect its EEZ and invest in sustainable fishing practices. You need to continue to collect fees from foreign commercial fishing fleets.
- You are a small country and need allies. Look to solidify the support of the United States.
- You genuinely want to enforce an oversight regime to curb illegal fishing but lack the resources to do so.
- Realistically balancing your resources and capacity to take action is paramount and will be key to your success.

Questions to Consider

- Should Hiroot continue to try to restrict fishing in the high seas pockets areas surrounding its EEZ?
- How can Hiroot better control its EEZ in order to protect the valuable tuna population?
- Should Hiroot ask more of the U.S. because of its vested interest in Hiroot's fish catch?
- Should Hiroot take measures to restrict trade with Uzan based on its knowledge of its use of illegal fishing vessels?
- What implications do the decisions made by Hiroot have in the future?
- What are possible funding sources for the solutions?