

9. Oil Exploration in the Mediterranean

Considering that exploitation of off-shore petroleum often results in leakages, forming oil slicks which are destructive to the flora and fauna of the open sea and coastal zones, and to recreational values;

Considering the ecological importance of pelagic and littoral flora and fauna in relation to the trophic chains responsible for marine productivity;

Considering also that the Mediterranean shores through their beauty and mild climate are important centres for international tourism;

Considering further that the conservation of the natural ecosystems and the perpetuation of recreational values of these areas are incompatible with the existence of polluting industrial installations;

The 11th General Assembly of IUCN meeting at Banff, Canada, in September 1972:

Urges all responsible authorities in Mediterranean countries to demand compliance with the most stringent regulations designed to prevent spillage, leakage and consequent oil pollution by concessionaires and others involved in oil exploration and exploitation.