

16. Conservation of Marine Resources

Being concerned that industrial fishing may result in dangerous depletion of marine resources, particularly marine mammals, inhabiting international waters by over-exploitation and through pollution and other environmental disturbances;

Believing that these resources should be treated as international property and as such should be subject to fully international control;

Supporting the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm 1972) relating to such resources, particularly the whales;

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

Recommends that the United Nations should institute measures to bring marine resources inhabiting international waters under fully international control;

Urges all nations to modify fishing operations carried out by their nationals, so as to avoid destruction of porpoises and other small cetaceans caused by unacceptable fishing techniques;

Stresses the need for further conservation measures for threatened species of marine mammals, particularly national measures for those species inhabiting coastal waters;

Urges all organizations concerned to examine rigorously the permitted quotas for all marine live resources, especially whales and seals, and to impose a moratorium on the capture of any species for which scientific evidence does not clearly support continued harvest;

And suggests that the greatest caution be exercised in exploitation of krill since the existence of many other valuable species, particularly the baleen whales, depends on this resource.