

10. Ocean trenches

RECOGNIZING that, although largely unexplored, ocean trenches are known to be centres of endemism containing many undescribed species and unique habitats;

NOTING that dumping has occurred in ocean trenches and additional dumping of radioactive and other noxious substances is being considered;

AWARE that such activities and even scientific exploration may already have caused alterations of these sites; and

RECOGNIZING that circulation in ocean trenches is very slow and that damage may be irreversible;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September -5 October 1978:

RECOMMENDS to all nations:

- (a) that dumping in these trenches both of toxic and radioactive substances and of substances that would deplete oxygen supply, be halted;
- (b) that ocean trenches within the proposed 200 mile limit of the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) be declared marine sanctuaries by those countries with jurisdiction over them;

that ocean trenches not within national jurisdictions be considered for sanctuary status under appropriate international conventions.