

16/13. LAND BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION

RECOGNIZING that discharges of wastes from land are by far the most significant sources of marine pollution, as these discharges directly affect the coastal waters where human contact with the ocean and fisheries resources reach their highest levels;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that far too little concrete information is available about the incidence or impact of land-based discharges on the marine environment;

NOTING the difficulty of data collection on the entry and fate of contaminants from land-based sources with regard to identification of substances;

CONCERNED about conflicting national interests in regard to the control of land-based sources of pollution and the inadequacy of environmental and international control over private foreign investments;

APPRECIATIVE of the work of the *ad hoc* Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law (Montevideo 1981) which selected marine pollution from land-based sources as one of three subject areas deserving priority attention, and of the continued efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) *ad hoc* Working Group of Experts in working towards the achievement of appropriate and effective guidelines and principles for the protection of the marine environment against pollution from land-based sources;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant progress made by UNEP's Regional Seas Programme in the development of appropriate measures for governing land-based sources of pollution; and

NOTING that the Law of the Sea Convention provides that "states, acting especially through competent international organizations or diplomatic conference, shall endeavour to establish global and regional rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources...";

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. RECOMMENDS that States take the necessary steps domestically to institute appropriate and effective measures to prevent serious or irreversible pollution from land-based sources;
2. RECOMMENDS ALSO that States and non-governmental organizations, in the context of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, work with UNEP to strengthen existing provisions of the Regional Seas Conventions governing land-based sources of pollution and take the necessary steps to include such provisions in those Regional Seas Conventions where they do not presently exist; and
3. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that States, in collaboration with UNEP and other international organizations, make a concerted effort to establish expeditiously appropriate and effective codes of conduct and guidelines to prevent serious or irreversible pollution from land-based sources, as a first step towards a global treaty on this subject.