

17.48 CONSERVATION OF THE BALTIC RINGED SEAL (*Phoca hispida botnica*)

ALARMED by the substantial decline of the populations of ringed seals, grey seals and harbour seals in the Baltic Sea in this century;

CONCERNED that all three seal species of the Baltic Sea are suffering from severe ailments and a high degree of reproductive failure, most probably due to organochlorine pollution in the Baltic;

WELCOMING the fact that all the seven states bordering the Baltic Sea have banned hunting of the grey seal and the harbour seal and taken steps to stop discharges of DDT and PCBs into the marine environment in accordance with the recommendation of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission);

AWARE that six states and the Aland Islands do not hunt or have banned hunting of the Baltic Ringed Seal;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

STRONGLY URGES the Government of Finland, as the last nation bordering the Baltic Sea to allow hunting of ringed seals, to take immediate measures to stop hunting of the Baltic Ringed Seal in order to allow the population to recover.