

- can produce maximum sustainable yields;
- (c) to prevent the decrease in fish populations below levels which ensure stable recruitment;

19.55 Sustainable Marine Fisheries

RECALLING Recommendation 18.33 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the call in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 for States to commit themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources on the high seas (para. 46) and marine living resources under national jurisdiction (para. 75);

NOTING the statement in Agenda 21 that many fisheries under national jurisdiction face mounting problems including local over-fishing, unauthorized incursion by foreign fleets, ecosystem degradation, over-capitalization and excessive fleet sizes, undervaluation of catch, insufficiently selective gear, unreliable databases and increasing competition between artisanal and large-scale fishing and between fishing and other types of activities;

AWARE of expressions of concern over perceived examples of fishing at unsustainable levels, such as the Chatham Rise orange roughy fishery in New Zealand;

NOTING that marine fisheries internationally have reached a plateau of a reported 90 to 100 million tonnes of fish and shellfish per year with limited possibility for increased supplies, except from aquaculture;

AWARE of the work of FAO on the precautionary principle of fisheries management and of the current negotiating text from the Chair of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

RECALLING the principles in Article II of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

NOTING the imminent entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and acknowledging its provisions with respect to the conservation and management of living resources;

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of Cancun adopted at the International Conference on Responsible Fishing held from 6 to 8 May 1992;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS on all States and regional fisheries organizations to apply the precautionary principle when adopting fisheries conservation and management controls, and
 - (a) to take preventative conservation measures where there are threats of irreversible significant damage to fish stocks of associated or dependent species;
 - (b) to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that

- (d) to maintain biological diversity;
 - (e) to manage fisheries so that populations of harvested, dependent and related marine organisms are maintained at levels consistent with their roles in the ecosystem;
2. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to ensure fishing is carried out only on the basis of sound ecologically sustainable practices;
 3. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of applicable fisheries conservation and management rules and to collaborate and cooperate to these ends;
 4. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to promote and enhance the collection of data necessary for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including dependent and associated species, and to cooperate to this end;
 5. CALLS on States to adopt sufficiently stringent measures to allow the recovery of over-exploited long-lived species to a biomass that will at least sustain the maximum sustainable yield.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

