

19.60 Mediterranean High Seas Driftnets

RECALLING that Article 128 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes the need for cooperation among the States around closed and semi-enclosed seas;

RECALLING that Article 117 of UNCLOS reads "All States have the duty to take, or to cooperate with other States in taking such measures for their respective nationals as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high-seas";

RECALLING that the UN General Assembly, in Resolution 44/225, has referred to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing as a "highly indiscriminate and wasteful practice";

RECALLING Resolution 46/215, adopted by consensus at the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly in December 1991, calling for a global moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the High Seas of the world's oceans and seas including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas by December 1992;

AWARE of the fact that an increasing number of fleets operate unmonitored and without control on international waters of the Mediterranean Sea;

NOTING that no effective, precautionary and legally binding multilateral conservation regime to regulate high seas fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea has yet been established;

EXPRESSING with concern that the few conservation and management recommendations proposed or adopted by the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are for the most part ignored;

EXPRESSING concern at the growing presence of industrial fleets flying flags of convenience;

EXPRESSING grave concern over the continued use of large-scale driftnets in the Mediterranean Sea by a fleet of approximately 720 vessels deploying nets of average 10km length in violation of UN Resolution 46/215, and of EC Regulation 345/92, which prohibits the use of driftnets longer than 2.5km;

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

1. URGES all governments bordering the Mediterranean Sea urgently to negotiate a legally binding international regime for high seas fishing in international waters that would, *inter alia*, set strict environmental standards for high seas fishing and institute regional mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of regulations;
2. CALLS for the immediate implementation of the moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing as called for in UN Resolution 46/215.