

19.76 Protection of the North Pacific Marine Ecosystem

RECALLING that a significant portion of the ecologically critical North Pacific marine ecosystem along 2500km of coastline was seriously damaged by the massive Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska, in 1989;

AWARE that restoration of the damaged habitat requires protection of the adjacent northernmost North American coastal temperate rainforest bordering Prince William Sound and the rest of the oil-affected area;

RECOGNIZING that approximately US\$1.025 billion has been made available through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for the restoration of the affected habitat, and that much of this sum has yet to be allocated;

AWARE that it is essential that restoration of the coastal habitat and protection of the regional marine ecosystem be achieved as soon as possible, and before the forests are destroyed by logging;

AWARE also that the Governments of the United States and the State of Alaska have expressed commitment to restoring the environmental damage caused by the oil spill, but that negotiations with the Alaska Native landowners have become stalled;

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

URGES the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council aggressively to pursue negotiations with willing landowners in Prince William Sound and the general oil spill area to purchase land or interests in lands with the purpose of restoring and protecting the Prince William Sound coastal area and the north Pacific marine ecosystem.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Sweden and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

