

1.31 The Significance of Pacific Salmon to Canada and USA

AWARE that salmon runs have always been vital to a way of life on the Pacific Coast of North America, an important part of the natural heritage of the region, and an important source of food, income and recreation for aboriginal, commercial and sport fishers;

RECOGNIZING that salmon have long been the backbone of the commercial, recreational and aboriginal fisheries, were instrumental in the development of much of the Pacific Coast, are considered the lifeblood of many coastal communities, and play a vital role in maintaining the lifestyle of coastal residents;

AWARE that concern about the state of the salmon resource, especially wild salmon resources, has increased significantly in recent years among those directly involved with the resource or its management, as well as among the citizens of both countries, and that West Coast citizens in particular strongly desire effective cooperation between Canada and USA in their efforts to manage Pacific salmon stocks on an ecosystem basis, to ensure the protection of the resource and to increase its productivity;

RECOGNIZING that in Canada and USA provincial, state and national governments have undertaken independent initiatives to conserve Pacific salmon so as to receive benefits from salmon returns;

RECOGNIZING the importance of habitat protection for the survival of Pacific salmon and that governments at all levels in both countries have undertaken initiatives to protect and restore salmon habitat;

RECOGNIZING that activities to enhance, conserve and share Pacific salmon should be carried out in a coordinated, cooperative way;

AWARE that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which have been widely endorsed by the international community, include provisions relevant to the conservation of Pacific salmon;

NOTING that Pacific salmon are subject to federal, state and tribal jurisdictions, Canada and USA have entered into the Pacific Salmon Treaty designed to prevent over-fishing, provide for optimum production and provide for each Party to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON governments at all levels in Canada and USA to ensure that fisheries subject to their jurisdiction are conducted in accordance with the principles of conservation and cooperation;
2. URGES both Parties to the Pacific Salmon Treaty:
 - a) to continue to give high priority to implementing the Treaty and its related Memorandum of Understanding;
 - b) to renew their commitment to resolve the long-standing dispute over application of the equity and conservation principles consistent with provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and its related Memorandum of Understanding.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting.