

1.40 Multi-Species Management of Aquatic Resources

RECALLING the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Declaration of Cancun, the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, particularly Article 6 and Annex 2 which require a precautionary approach to fisheries management, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the International Convention for the Regulation on Whaling;

ALSO RECALLING paragraph 13 of the Kyoto Declaration on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security that was signed by 95 States on 9 December 1995, which undertakes to “study the effectiveness of multi-species management”;

ALSO RECALLING the statement made upon passage of the Kyoto Declaration that Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, expressing their understanding that the Declaration was not meant to affect the competency or status of other international organizations, such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the subsequent statement by the European Union at IWC48 expressing a similar understanding;

RECOGNIZING that fish stocks may contribute in important ways to the nutritional needs of future generations;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the responsibility of the present generation to sustain the aquatic ecosystems and resources of the world for the future;

NOTING that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea makes use of the multi-species analyses in formulating aspects of its advice and has working groups examining the interaction of species in the marine ecosystem;

WELCOMING the efforts made to apply multi-species approaches in the management of fish stocks in various waters around the world;

RECOGNIZING that multi-species approaches show promise for future management of marine stocks;

NOTING that the 1992 and 1994 meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Marine Mammals Plan of Action concluded that there was insufficient information at that time to advise on whether moderately complex models could predict the effect of an intentional reduction in the abundance of marine mammals on fisheries, and that the results of models including more of the components of the marine food web could produce increases, decreases or no detectable changes in fishery yields, depending on the details of the scenarios being investigated;

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

1. URGES States to promote and enhance the collection of data necessary for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, and for the establishment of periods of stock reproduction and recovery, including targeted monitoring of critical dependent and associated species and to cooperate to this end;
2. URGES States, as well as relevant international organizations, as a high priority to undertake and complete scientifically sound studies of the effectiveness of multi-species management;
3. REQUESTS States with distant water fishing fleets to cooperate with coastal States in the conservation and management of populations of highly migratory fish.