

**WCC-2012-Rec-143-EN**

**Moratorium on the fishing of the Chilean jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) in the international waters of the South Pacific**

CONCERNED about the biological consequences of the sustained deterioration of the Chilean Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) population in the South Pacific, which in 2011 reached the lowest level ever recorded, the spawning biomass having declined to 5% of the unfished level;

CONSIDERING the great socioeconomic impact of this fishery, which is located in waters stretching from Ecuador to southern Chile, and across international waters next to the Exclusive Economic Zones of these neighbouring countries, in which both national and international fleets fish;

STRESSING the importance of this fishery for job security of the fishing communities in coastal countries and its importance for global food safety;

EMPHASIZING that in 2006, thanks to the joint initiative by Australia, Chile and New Zealand, the implementation process of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) started, with the main purpose of guaranteeing the sustainability of fisheries, particularly that of the Chilean Jack Mackerel;

WARNING with great concern that, according to the last report by the Scientific Working Group of the SPRFMO published in September 2011, it is estimated that the Chilean Jack Mackerel spawning biomass dropped to below 20% of the unfished level in 1996 and that in 2011, the spawning biomass had declined to 5% of the unfished level;

INDICATING that there are scientific records that express concern over the fact that in some fishing zones Chilean Jack Mackerel smaller than the legally established minimum size are being caught in some of the member countries (26 cm FL in Chile, and 31 cm TL in Peru), which can decrease the potential for the recovery of the optimal spawning biomass level in the near future in order to ensure the sustainability of the population;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the decision made by the countries taking part in the III Preparatory Conference for the establishment of the SPRFMO, which engaged voluntarily to reduce Chilean Jack Mackerel catch quotas on the high seas to 320,000 tonnes in 2012;

RECALLING Article 7.6.10 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which indicates that: "States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, in the framework of their respective competences, should introduce measures for depleted resources and those resources threatened with depletion that facilitate the sustained recovery of such stocks..."; and

ALSO RECALLING Aichi Target 6 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, which establishes: "...all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches...";

***The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:***

1. URGES the global community to support initiatives that attempt to avoid overfishing, unreported and illegal fishing, and the degradation of fish stocks in general, in particular those of the Chilean Jack Mackerel;

2. URGES IUCN Members to include in their public agendas support for national, regional and global initiatives aimed at allowing Chilean Jack Mackerel stocks to recover and return to healthy levels, in order to ensure their sustainability; in particular those initiatives aimed at avoiding the capture of immature fish, at establishing bans during the spawning season and at establishing in coastal countries conservation measures in line with those established by the SPRFMO; and
3. URGES participants in the first meeting of the Commission of the SPRFMO, to be held in January and February 2013, to consider supporting a moratorium for Chilean Jack Mackerel fisheries in international waters for a period of at least three years, should the next technical report by the Scientific Working Group, to be prepared in October 2012, show that the temporary measures applied in 2011 and 2012 have not managed to stop the decline and start the recovery of the Chilean Jack Mackerel spawning biomass in the South Pacific.

State and agency Members of the United States voted against this Motion.

The State Member United States of America provided the following statement for the record:

“The United States supports the substantive goals of this Motion and shares the concern of the sponsors about the status of the stock. We support initiatives that attempt to avoid overfishing, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and the degradation of fish stocks in general, in particular those of the Chilean jack mackerel. However we must oppose this Motion due to the call for a moratorium for Chilean jack mackerel fisheries in international waters for a period of at least three years. It is unclear if this management measure will achieve the desired outcome. In fact, it will likely result in an increase of effort in coastal regions. This issue is already under active consideration in SPRFMO Scientific Working Group, and this Motion prejudices the work of that group.”