

WCC-2012-Res-075-EN

Strengthening policies relating to the seas and oceans

RECALLING that the seas and oceans cover approximately 70% of the Earth's surface;

AWARE of the opportunities and the hope that the seas and the oceans offer our societies and that a significant part of the solution to the world's crises will come from the sea;

EMPHASIZING that most ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems are within continental and island shelf systems and in areas within national jurisdictions and that these provide the highest contributions to human well-being and economies and are most highly impacted by human activities;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that the high seas, the marine zone that falls in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, represents 64% of the total surface of the Earth covered by the seas and oceans, and supplies resources and ecosystem services, which are indispensable for the planet;

NOTING that the sea's resources are limited and that those that are exploited are often under great threat, despite attempts to adopt sustainable management methods;

RECALLING that the future of livelihoods and jobs linked to the sea (sea transport, fishing and aquaculture, energy, etc.), involve millions of individuals across the world, and depends on the preservation of the ecological services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems;

RECALLING IN PARTICULAR that the preservation of marine ecosystem services requires effective management of economic activities and human-related pressure (land-based pollution, coastal development, etc.);

CONCERNED by the intense acceleration of the use of ocean space for new and emerging activities;

FURTHER RECALLING the need for an ecosystem approach to guarantee an economic development compatible with the preservation of all marine ecosystem services;

RECOGNIZING the need for real, coordinated, integrated policies relating to the sea and coasts, for government authorities to bring the different stakeholders together, and for independent environmental consultancy and assessment authorities; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the importance of having the necessary means to ensure the implementation of strategies relating to the sea and the oceans;

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

1. CALLS ON States and IUCN Member organizations to integrate ecosystem-based management of human maritime activities, the creation of resilient networks of marine protected areas (MPAs), and effective marine spatial planning in all relevant national and regional plans and programmes, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and
2. CALLS ON the Director General to promote policies aiming at improving the conservation and management of the marine and coastal environment and resources, and to ensure that IUCN positions in international fora address the priorities and concerns of areas

within and beyond national jurisdiction in a balanced manner.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.