

## **WCC-2016-Res-021-EN**

### **Monitoring and management of unselective, unsustainable and unmonitored (UUU) fisheries**

RECOGNISING that marine biodiversity and ecosystems are essential for a healthy planet, food security and many livelihoods;

CONSCIOUS that marine biodiversity is declining, threats to marine biodiversity are increasing, marine ecosystems are being degraded, and that 'unselective, unsustainable and unmonitored' (UUU) fisheries increasingly threaten marine populations;

NOTING that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the importance of conserving the oceans, seas and marine resources and ensuring that all use is sustainable;

NOTING the expansion of UUU fisheries, mainly using bottom trawl fishing gear, which include non-selective fisheries that take small demersal fish and invertebrates formerly regarded as bycatch or 'trash' species and discarded, but which now are retained for fishmeal, other animal feed, and processed human food products such as surimi and fish paste, and that management is needed for sustainability;

ACKNOWLEDGING our obligation to conserve natural resources and avoid adverse impacts on threatened species and ecosystems, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

RECOGNISING that the growing demand for aquaculture products is leading to an increase in the use of marine life for feed, much from unmanaged wild populations;

EMPHASISING the need urgently to address the problems of food security, ecological impacts, fleet overcapacity, overfishing, unsustainable and damaging fishing and processing methods in areas within and outside national jurisdiction, and that human use must not compromise underlying natural systems;

ACKNOWLEDGING that little information is available on the biological, economic or social consequences of indiscriminate removal of myriad marine species through UUU fishing; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED that UUU fisheries could severely threaten marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems as well as undermining long-term food security;

### **The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:**

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to analyse and report on this topic;
2. CALLS ON IUCN Commissions to consider social, economic and ecological issues around UUU fisheries in their work;
3. CALLS ON coastal and fishing States, and economic integration entities and other authorities and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to:
  - a. implement data collection, monitoring and reporting on the scale, geographic coverage, and catch composition of UUU fisheries;
  - b. integrate marine biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into national and regional regulation of fishing activities and to take precautionary action to protect the environment, vulnerable marine ecosystems and ecosystem functioning;
  - c. ensure protection of species taken in UUU fisheries that are or may become threatened;
  - d. research alternative feeds for aquaculture and animal farming that do not depend so heavily on wild-caught marine life; and

- e. evaluate the long-term socio-economic costs and benefits and ecological impacts of UUU fisheries and their products;
4. ENCOURAGES coastal States and other competent authorities to take evidence-based measures to reduce the impacts of UUU fisheries, especially bottom trawl fisheries, including spatial or temporal limits on catch or fishing effort, controls on methods and practices of fishing that are wasteful or destructive of ecosystems, and special measures for the protection of vulnerable marine species and habitats, as well as monitoring, control and surveillance;
5. ENCOURAGES funding and development assistance agencies to assist with monitoring of UUU fisheries in areas where local resources are insufficient; and
6. URGES NGOs and other organisations to raise awareness about UUU fisheries through their networks and to consider this issue in their planning and strategic development.

**State and agency Members of the United States** abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.