

WCC-2016-Res-048-EN
International biofouling

RECALLING Recommendation 1.77 Marine Pollution and MARPOL (Montreal, 1996), strongly urging the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to work towards a binding framework to control the introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms from ballast water;

FURTHER RECALLING that Member States of the IMO committed to minimise the transfer of non- indigenous species in adopting the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the IMO adopted resolution MEPC.207(62), 2011, the first set of international recommendations for the control and management of vessel biofouling;

NOTING that Part XII, Section 1, Article 196 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the global framework requiring states to work together to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment;

FURTHER NOTING the Objectives of Article 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, and that the transfer and introduction of non-indigenous species through biofouling from ships threatens the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

MINDFUL that 90% of world trade is carried by sea, demanding a globally consistent approach;

CONCERNED that biofouling of vessels is as harmful as ballast water discharge, a human-made vector for non-indigenous species;

RECOGNISING that implementing practices to control and manage biofouling of ships can reduce the spread of non-indigenous species, and reduce ship-borne greenhouse gas emissions through greater hydrodynamic performance;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the interconnection of ports worldwide justifies the development and implementation of mandatory international biofouling standards; and

AWARE OF the substantial steps taken by Australia, New Zealand, and several jurisdictions in the United States to address and implement biofouling management;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General to:
 - a. promote and support cooperation among Members, governments, the business sector, stakeholders and academia for the exchange of information, knowledge, technology, and best practices to prevent non-indigenous species introduction through biofouling; and
 - b. urge governments to create and implement legal frameworks to share responsibility for the prevention of non-indigenous species introduction through biofouling;
2. URGES all Members to recognise the urgent need for international coordination and cooperation to address biofouling;
3. STRONGLY URGES the IMO to work towards establishing mandatory measures to address the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from ship biofouling; and
4. ENCOURAGES the international community to ratify the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004.