

## 1.18 Aquaculture

AWARE that in recent years aquaculture has been repeatedly promoted as a solution to meet growing world food needs;

COGNIZANT that traditional forms of aquaculture can make, and have made a substantial contribution to food supplies in areas of the world where food needs are most acute;

CONCERNED that aquaculture as currently practiced is often unsustainable, resulting in various negative impacts;

ESPECIALLY CONCERNED that the rapid expansion in the development of intensive aquaculture for high value species such as salmon and shrimp can result in degradation of the environment and displacement of coastal fishing and farming communities;

RECOGNIZING the grave dangers posed by the introductions of non-native species;

NOTING that the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in Article 9, urges responsible aquaculture development;

BELIEVING that national and regional implementation of the FAO Code, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other existing laws and policies must be pursued in a manner which ensures that unsustainable aquaculture is prohibited, before there is more irreversible damage, loss of biodiversity or harm to coastal communities;

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

1. URGES all States to:
  - a) ensure that all aquaculture within their areas of jurisdiction is responsible and sustainable;
  - b) ensure that artisanal fisheries and dependent coastal communities are not adversely affected by aquaculture development;
  - c) ensure the protection of mangrove forests, wetlands and other ecologically sensitive coastal areas;
  - d) manage the responsible use, and minimize or prevent the pollution of fresh water supplies (including groundwater) that are important for drinking and for agriculture;
  - e) ensure that the use of fish as feed for aquaculture is based on sustainable practices, given its importance as a source of food for people, and if such use occurs, aim to limit the spread of diseases and the introduction of alien species;
  - f) ensure that the conversion of agricultural land to use for aquaculture is subject to ecologically sound land-use planning, and where such conversion occurs, that negative ecological and social impacts are minimized;
  - g) ensure that the ecological damage resulting from introductions of non-native species is prevented;
  - h) ensure that abandoned or degraded aquaculture sites are ecologically rehabilitated with due regard, as appropriate, to the polluter pays principle;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to promote these objectives through IUCN members, Commissions and the Secretariat.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote the delegation would have abstained.*