

## 1.77 Marine Pollution and MARPOL

RECALLING Recommendation 19.47 of the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly;

CONCERNED at the continuing pollution of the marine environment worldwide, but especially in areas subject to heavy marine traffic;

NOTING the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation;

NOTING that state sovereignty means that state-owned vessels are exempt from the controls under the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto (MARPOL 73/78);

NOTING that the country of vessel registration is frequently a matter of legislative convenience rather than geographical authenticity;

AWARE that the spread of toxic dinoflagellates and other organisms, for example the introduction of the Pacific seastar into Tasmania, Australia, has been linked to the discharge of ballast water from ships;

CONCERNED at the threat to marine biodiversity from introduced species;

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

1. URGES all States who have not acceded to or ratified MARPOL and its completed annexes to do so urgently;
2. CALLS UPON all member States of IMO to:
  - a) urgently finalize their work on the development of MARPOL Annex VI on air pollution from ships;
  - b) voluntarily apply to their sovereign immune vessels the provisions of MARPOL and those of other Conventions addressing the protection of the marine environment;
3. STRONGLY URGES IMO to continue to:
  - a) work towards a legally binding framework to control the introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms including water-borne diseases and alien marine species from ballast water;
  - b) encourage the development by its Member States of appropriate control technologies to resolve these problems.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands after the delegation of the State member United States requested a vote to record its opposition. The delegation of the State member Australia indicated that the delegation had abstained from voting.*