

D. SUSTAINABLE USE OF LIVING MARINE RESOURCES UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Basis for action

58. The conservation and management of marine living resources should take place on the basis of sustainable utilization. This is of social, economic and nutritional importance, and contributes to national food security, not least to developing countries and indigenous peoples. The special status of indigenous peoples should be recognized including their rights to utilization and protection of their habitats on a sustainable basis.

60. World oceans yield about 80-90 million tons per year, 95% of which comes from EEZs. They provide healthy food and livelihoods to millions of people in coastal areas. However, many countries continue to face mounting problems related to implementation of their rights and obligations under UNCLOS, including local overfishing, (poor management performance), unauthorized incursions by foreign vessels, ecosystem degradation, increased stock fluctuations, overcapitalization, excessive fleet sizes, inefficiently selective gear, unreliable data bases and inadequate information about their resource base, increasing competition between artisanal and industrial fishing and between fishing and other types of activities. (22)

61. Problems extend beyond fisheries. Coral reefs and other largely tropical coastal habitats such as seagrass communities, mangroves and estuaries among the most highly diverse, integrated and productive of the earth's ecosystems. They often serve important ecological functions, provide protection from hazards of the open sea, and are critical natural resources for food, energy, and economic development. In various parts of the world such coastal and marine systems are under stress or threatened due to factors ranging from local cultural practices to changes in sea temperature and or sea level.

[Objectives

71. The objective would be to build national capacity over the next 10 years to make full sustainable use of the EEZs.(23)

General

64. [States must] [States in accordance to their national legislation and policies could] ensure as far as practicable that human activities do not result in the decrease of any population of marine species with special attention to marine mammals and sea turtles, below a level at which its recruitment is stable, but preferably not below a level close to that which ensures the greatest net annual increment; populations of marine species that have been depleted by harvesting should be restored to these levels.

65. Data and information [must] [should] be obtained [by States with the cooperation of international organisations], including verifiable catch and effort statistics, on the commercial harvesting of populations of marine species, including by-catch, adequate to reliably assess and predict the effects of such harvesting.

66. Selective fishing gear and practices should be used to [avoid] [minimise] significant waste of catch of target populations of marine species and the significant bycatch of non-target species.

67. States should ensure that each population of marine species that is the target of fishing [exploitation] activities is harvested in areas and at the stage of its life cycle that ensures maximum economic efficiency, consistent with these principles.]