

Appendix 5

The Law of the Sea

The Workshops prepared a statement of principles for the conservation of wild living resources which could meet modern needs. The statement redefines the primary goal of renewable resource management and the conditions for effective application of the principles. In this document (Appendix 5 of the Report of the Workshop) the statement is adapted to specific problems concerning the living resources of the sea, particularly, but not exclusively, those which are or may be internationally managed. The document explains the reasoning behind this endeavor, and annexed to it is a form of words which it is suggested might usefully be included in the text of instruments now being prepared by the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

A. "Conservation of the living resources of the sea is that aggregate of measures required to maintain those resources and their environment in a state such that (1) a maximum and stable supply of food and other marine products may be taken from them on a continuing basis; (2) there is minimal likelihood of irreversible or longterm adverse effects of exploitation on particular resources or on the marine ecosystem as a whole; (3) a wide diversity of options for future use is ensured".

B. "Conservation measures shall be formulated with a view to (1) avoiding wasteful use of other natural resources expended to secure the supply of food and other marine products; (2) providing a margin of safety to allow for unpredicted variations and characteristics of marine resources and their environment, and for the fact that the application of measures may be subject to delay or be otherwise imperfect; (3) securing in the first place a supply of food for human consumption.

C. "The party or parties having jurisdiction over a living marine resource shall ensure that such continuing scientific research is conducted, and that such data are regularly collected and analyzed and results promptly disseminated, as are necessary for the formulation of conservation measures and for monitoring the effects of their application. The scope of the necessary research and data is such as to reveal the state and dynamics of the stocks being or to be exploited, the effects of exploitation on them, their interactions with other elements of the marine ecosystem to which they belong, and their dependence on environmental processes.

"In meeting this responsibility the party having jurisdiction shall ensure that entities acting under its authority collect the necessary data, including information about the utilized and the discarded catches, and about the fishing operations."