

Annexe 6: SOLEMN DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

All States (that term comprising, for the purposes of this Declaration, the European Union) participating in the Conference on fisheries management in the Mediterranean, held in Crete on 12-14 December 1994,

1. Recognizing the desirability of promoting the peaceful uses of the seas, together with the rational and efficient utilization and the conservation of their living resources;
2. Desiring to cooperate with a view to ensuring the effective conservation of those resources in the Mediterranean, as well as the sustainable development of the fisheries;
3. Conscious of the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean, the multiple uses of which for industry and tourism, amongst others, contribute to the sensitivity of its environment;
4. Taking account of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which entered into force on 16 November 1994 and which requires all members of the international community to cooperate in the conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas;
5. Bearing in mind the work of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing being drawn up under the auspices of the FAO, and in particular the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas;
6. Being of the opinion that the conservation of Mediterranean fishery resources, and the long-term and rational use of those resources, would be considerably enhanced if measures were adopted in cooperation by the coastal States of the Mediterranean and States whose nationals fish those resources in that sea;
7. Convinced of the need to reinforce existing structures for international cooperation in the Mediterranean, in such a way that all interested parties may participate therein and without neglecting the socio-economic consequences of effective action with regard to those resources;

Declare the following:

1. All States which benefit, in whatever capacity, from the biological wealth of the Mediterranean marine environment, share in the duty to ensure that its fishery resources are preserved and developed.
2. Effective regional cooperation must be encouraged at the highest level amongst the parties concerned, to be open to all coastal States and any State whose vessels fish in the Mediterranean.

3. The objective of that cooperation, covering the resources, the environment and the application of legal principles, shall be the implementation of a system of conservation and management, harmonized at Mediterranean level, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and the most beneficial existing practices, with the purpose of ensuring effective protection for the fishery resources of the Mediterranean and their rational exploitation, under the most favourable circumstances.
4. The coastal States of the Mediterranean and the other States which benefit from its biological resources will examine the legal instruments and other measures to be implemented in order to ensure comprehensive cooperation relating to the preservation and development of the fisheries resources of the region.