

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.138/85
17 August 1972

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN



COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE
LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Declaration on Principles of Rational Exploitation
of the Living Resources of the Seas and Oceans in
the Common Interests of All Peoples of the World

Adopted at the Conference of Ministers
held at Moscow on 6 - 7 July 1972

(Circulated at the request of the delegations of
Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and USSR)

The Ministers responsible for fisheries in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian Peoples Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, having considered, at a meeting held in Moscow on 6-7 July 1972, problems relating to the exploration and rational exploitation of the living resources of the seas and oceans;

Noting that the seas and oceans are one of the most important sources of food for mankind and of raw materials for various branches of modern industry;

Considering that the findings of fishery science demonstrate the possibility of further increasing the catch of fish and of many other marine animals without harm to the reproduction of stocks;

Being convinced that the fishing régime on the high seas should be based on the principle of the equal right of all States to engage in fishing and on strict observance of scientific measures for maintaining the living resources of the sea at the maximum sustainable level;

Considering that one of the prospective ways of solving the problem of increasing the yield of food resources from the seas and oceans is to combine the efforts of all interested States in research on, and the reproduction of, marine organisms;

Have resolved to set forth their views on principles of rational utilization of the living resources of the seas and oceans.

1. The co-operation of all interested States in studying and regulating activity relating to the living resources of the sea is an essential condition for their rational use and for increasing the yield of fish from the seas and oceans. However, the partitioning among States of a substantial part of biologically inter-related areas of the high seas through the establishment by coastal States of special zones of great width (for example, more than 12 miles) and the proclamation of exclusive rights of coastal States over constantly migrating shoals of fish would make this task impossible to fulfil.

2. The socialist States signatories of this declaration advocate rational and scientifically-based fishing and support proposals for more effective scientific research and regulation of fishing on the high seas by international fishery organizations.

Existing systems of international regulation of fishing must be continuously improved. The role of regional international fishing organizations should be increased, and their functions broadened; the exchange of scientific, technical and fishery information should be improved with a view to the objective assessment of stocks of fish; and all interested States, without exception, should be given the opportunity to participate in such organizations, on the principle of sovereign equality. It is necessary to give international organizations functions of international verification of compliance with fishing regulations, in view of the fact that such a measure will promote the more effective protection of fishery resources and their maintenance at the maximum sustainable level.

3. Marine fishing among the countries of the world today is characterized by unequal development.

This is not entirely due to differences in the natural factors which affect the biological productivity of marine areas frequented by shoals of fish. Planned exploitation of fishery resources in the common interest is hampered by the grave consequences of the colonial domination and oppression of many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, for which the colonial powers bear responsibility.

4. The socialist States jointly making this declaration support the struggle of developing countries to establish independent national economies, including fishing. They deeply sympathize with the aspirations of those countries to create a fishing industry based on the modern achievements of fishery science and marine technology,

and they are assisting them in the establishment and technical equipment of their fishing industries. They will continue to co-operate with the developing countries in the sphere of marine fishing and, to the extent of their own and their partners' capacities, to assist them in the establishment of a modern marine fishing industry with the necessary shore installations, and will broaden their aid in the training of national cadres for fish industries and fishing fleets.

5. In view of the different economic and technological capacities of coastal and other developing States and of countries which engage in long-distance fishing in the same areas as those States, developing countries should be given certain preferential rights enabling them to develop their national fishing industry and overcome their technological backwardness.

6. Firmly convinced of the need for a speedy solution of the problem of full utilization of the living resources of the seas and oceans on a rational basis and in the common interests of all peoples of the world, the socialist countries signing this declaration consider that such a solution can be found on the basis of a reasonable combination, through the international regulation of fishing, of the interests of coastal States and of countries which engage in long-distance fishing operations, and not by the adoption of unilateral measures by individual countries.

7. The living resources of the seas and oceans must become a constant source for improving the well-being and raising the standards of living of the peoples of our planet and be of benefit to all mankind.

Moscow, 7 July 1972.