



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



37th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 23-24 November 2010

CMS/StC37/21
Agenda Item 12

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MARINE DEBRIS

1. The present draft Resolution is submitted to the Standing Committee for review and guidance on how CMS could contribute to the prevention and mitigation of the negative effects of marine debris on migratory species.
2. The issue was discussed at the 16th Scientific Council last June and it was concluded that Australia in collaboration with the Secretariat would work on developing a draft Resolution for submission to the Standing Committee. The documents used as reference for the Scientific Council were UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.21 and Information Documents UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Inf.9 and UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Inf.9.1.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to review the draft Resolution, and to provide comments or guidance for a submission to COP10.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MARINE DEBRIS

(Submitted by Australia)

Concerned that harmful marine debris can have negative impacts on substantial numbers of migratory marine animals, including many species of birds, turtles and marine mammals that are threatened with extinction;

Aware that mortality of migratory species may occur through ingestion, entanglement or by encountering marine debris in marine and coastal areas;

Noting that concerted effort must be made in upstream locations and estuaries and other systems where debris can enter the marine and coastal environment and have an impact upon migratory species listed under the CMS;

Recognizing the impacts of marine debris on CMS-listed species, particularly marine turtles, marine mammals and seabirds;

Defining harmful marine debris as all plastics and other types of debris from domestic or international sources that may cause harm to vertebrate marine wildlife;

Acknowledging the national response to the negative impacts of marine debris by Australia, namely through the development and implementation of the *Threat Abatement Plan for the Impacts of Marine Debris on Vertebrate Marine Life*;

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Encourages* Parties to identify coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris, including ghost nets, aggregate;
2. *Further encourages* Parties to work collaboratively with regional neighbours to identify and address the sources and impacts of harmful marine debris;
3. *Urges* the Secretariats of CMS and relevant daughter agreements that may have access to data on the potential or actual impacts of marine debris on marine species to report this information to the Standing Committee before the 11th Conference of the Parties;
4. *Further urges* Parties to encourage domestic industries to reduce marine waste by implementing waste management systems that prevent the discharge of non-biodegradable substances into the marine environment;
5. *Invites* Parties to consider making voluntary contributions, provision of in-kind support, or establishing small grants programmes to address knowledge gaps or impacts of marine debris on migratory species;
6. *Recommends* Parties identify possible financial incentives to encourage the return of waste generated at sea to land for appropriate disposal, for example:
 - fishing gear inventories by port and vessel supported by deposits and bounty initiatives;

- introduction of regulations relevant to the insurance of lost fishing or other gear and/or insurance levies to support removal of derelict gear; and
 - repair, re-use and recycling initiatives.
7. *Strongly recommends* that Parties establish domestic programmes for the management of ghost net and marine debris to reduce the incidence of debris in their Exclusive Economic Zones;
 8. *Strongly recommends* Parties develop and implement their own national plans of action to address the negative impacts of marine debris in their Exclusive Economic Zones, and work regionally and internationally to address marine debris as an impact that does not recognize sovereign borders;
 9. *Requests* that Parties provide all available information on the impacts of marine debris on marine species listed on Appendix I and II of CMS in their Exclusive Economic Zones in their National Reports;
 10. *Instructs* the Scientific Council to:
 - a. identify best practice in waste management strategies used on board fishing vessels, identify existing codes of conduct and determine the need for the improvement and/or development of new codes of conduct; and
 - b. facilitate an analysis of the effectiveness of current public awareness and education campaigns concerning litter to identify gaps and areas for improvement; and
 11. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to foster linkages with other relevant international bodies to avoid duplication and maximise efforts to reduce the incidence of migratory species mortality caused by marine debris.