



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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## MARINE DEBRIS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting  
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

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*Concerned* that marine debris negatively impacts substantial numbers of migratory marine wildlife, including many species of birds, turtles, sharks 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 needs to be made in upstream locations and estuaries and other systems where marine debris can enter the marine and coastal environment and impact upon migratory species listed under the Convention;

*Recognizing* Resolution 60/30, Oceans and the law of the sea, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which emphasizes the importance of protecting and preserving the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation;

*Further recognizing* that there are many regional and other international instruments addressing the issue of marine debris within their regions;

*Noting* the recent formulation of the Honolulu Commitment and the ongoing development of the Honolulu Strategy which aims to reduce the impacts of marine debris over the next ten years;

*Further noting* the recent adoption by the International Maritime Organization of amendments to Annex V “Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships” of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) which will prohibit the discharge of all garbage from ships into the sea from 1 January 2013, except in very limited circumstances; and

*Acknowledging* actions undertaken by States to reduce the negative impacts of marine debris in waters within their jurisdiction;

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

1. *Considers* marine debris to include any anthropogenic, manufactured or processed solid material, irrespective of its size, discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the environment, including all materials discarded into the sea, on the shore, or brought indirectly to the sea by rivers, sewage, storm water or winds;
2. *Encourages* Parties to identify coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates to identify any potential areas of concern;
3. *Further encourages* Parties to work collaboratively with regional neighbours to identify and address the sources and impacts of marine debris, acknowledging that marine debris is not constrained by sovereign borders;
4. *Requests* the CMS Secretariat to ask related agreements that may have access to data on the potential or actual impacts of marine debris on marine species to provide this information to the Scientific Council before the 11th or subsequent Conference of the Parties;
5. *Recommends* that Parties develop and implement their own national plans of action which should address the negative impacts of marine debris in waters within their jurisdiction, and which could also elaborate the benefits of establishing domestic programmes for the management of marine debris, particularly in relation to lost, abandoned, and otherwise discarded fishing gear and the problems of ghost fishing that arise from these;
6. *Requests* that Parties provide available information on the amounts, impacts and sources of marine debris in waters within their jurisdiction on marine species listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention in their National Reports;
7. *Encourages* Parties and organizations to support the efforts of Parties with limited resources in the development and implementation of their national plans of action for marine debris;
8. *Instructs* the Scientific Council to:
  - (a) identify knowledge gaps in the management of marine debris and its impacts on migratory species;
  - (b) identify best practice strategies for waste management used on board commercial marine vessels, taking into account the extensive work being undertaken by the International Maritime Organization, FAO and the International Standards Organization to avoid duplication, identify existing codes of conduct and determine the need for the improvement and/or development of new codes of conduct;
  - (c) facilitate an analysis of the effectiveness of current public awareness and education campaigns to identify gaps and areas for improvement; and
  - (d) report progress and developments to the Conference of Parties as appropriate; and
9. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to foster linkages with relevant regional and other international instruments, such as IMO, FAO, UNEP regional seas conventions and other fora, to promote synergies, to avoid duplication, and to maximize efforts to reduce the impact of marine debris on migratory species.