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## Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Third Conference of the Parties

September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – Mazatlán, México

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COP3/2006/R-2

### Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

**CONSIDERING** the possible impacts of fishing on sea turtle populations caused by incidental capture and mortality;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that some Parties of the IAC Convention are also Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which have adopted measures to regulate the impact of tuna fisheries on sea turtles, such as Resolutions IATTC C-04-05 (Modified) of the year 2005 and C-04-07 of the year 2004, and Resolution ICCAT 03-11 of 2003.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC Incidental Capture Working Group reports incidental capture of sea turtles and their mortality in longline fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean basin;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Fisheries Committee (COFI) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) enforced the Technical Consultation on sea turtle conservation and fisheries during their 26<sup>th</sup> session held in Rome of 2005 and urged their members and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) to immediately apply the recommendations outlined in the document Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality Caused by Fishing;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the Resolution of the International Sea Turtle Society, adopted at the 26th Symposium on April 7<sup>th</sup> of 2006 in Greece, supporting the adoption and implementation of the guidelines of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to reduce the mortality of sea turtles induced by fisheries operations;

**CONSIDERING** that the Parties states have established the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and other measures for shrimp trawling in their respective legislations and that the use of such devices and measures has been effective in reducing incidental capture of sea turtles in trawl fisheries;

**WHEREAS** some of the Parties are carrying out experiments with circular hooks and baits in longline fisheries that have shown to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, and;

**CONSIDERING** that these actions are in agreement with the objectives of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;



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### **THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVE TO:**

**INCORPORATE** the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to reduce the mortality of sea turtles induced by fisheries operations, and consider, as appropriate, recommendations integrated by the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the Convention.

**URGE** the Party States to send the Secretariat of the Convention information and documents on sea turtles created, including those sent to other multilateral organizations.

**INSTRUCT** the Convention Secretariat to contact non Party States, especially in the area of the Convention, so that in a cooperative spirit they provide the Secretariat with available data on incidental sea turtle catches in their fisheries.

**REQUEST** the Secretariat to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memorandum of Understandings.

Mazatlan, Mexico, September 2006