

## **ANNEX 9: RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE USE OF MARINE TURTLE BYCATCH REDUCTION MEASURES BY IOSEA SIGNATORY STATES**

*Adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Signatory States (Bali, Indonesia, 23 August 2008)*

*Acknowledging* that some fishing operations carried out in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) region can adversely impact marine turtles;

*Noting* recent technology developments, ongoing efforts to improve technologies in modified gear and fishing practices to reduce marine turtle bycatch, and further noting an increased understanding of the importance of turtle-safe handling measures;

*Commending* the efforts of many IOSEA Signatory States to test and adopt technologies to reduce interactions with, and impact of fishing gear on, marine turtles;

*Recognizing* the need to develop and further refine bycatch and mortality reduction measures, and recognizing the relevance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in this regard;

*Further recognizing* the vital role that fishers and fisheries play in the communities and economies of IOSEA Signatory States;

*Considering* the 2007 UN General Assembly Resolution 62/177 requesting that States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements urgently implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the 2004 FAO *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations*, in order to prevent the decline of marine turtle populations by reducing bycatch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries;

*Noting* that the IOSEA Online Reporting Facility serves as an effective tool for monitoring implementation of the above-mentioned FAO Guidelines, through its synthesis of national reports submitted by Signatory States; and

*Recalling* IOSEA Resolution 3.1 (Bangkok, 2005), which requested member nations of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to develop and implement appropriate gear and fishing methodologies to minimize bycatch and incidental mortality of marine turtles;

### **The Fifth Meeting of the Signatory States to the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding**

1. *Urges* all IOSEA Signatory States to adopt and implement the 2004 Food and Agriculture Organization *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations*, which call for the use of bycatch reduction measures demonstrated to reduce the interactions and severity of interactions with marine turtles. Such measures might include turtle excluder devices in trawls (e.g., shrimp, fish, and invertebrate trawls), appropriate combinations of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices, as well as all other appropriate bycatch reduction measures for gillnets, traps/pots, purse seines and other gear known to interact with marine turtles;
2. *Urges* all IOSEA Signatory States to adopt and implement safe marine turtle handling measures for longline fisheries, which include bringing turtles safely aboard vessels using dipnets, using appropriate de-hooking equipment to remove gear prior to release, and employing resuscitation techniques for comatose turtles;

3. *Invites* all IOSEA Signatory States to pay particular attention to completing and periodically updating their national reports in relation to fisheries-turtle interactions and bycatch mitigation measures, and requests the Secretariat to communicate such information to the FAO Committee on Fisheries and other bodies as appropriate, as a collective contribution from IOSEA towards monitoring implementation of the FAO Guidelines in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region;
4. *Urges* the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to adopt measures requiring the use of appropriate fishing practices to reduce interactions with, and incidental mortality of, marine turtles; and urges all IOSEA Signatory States who are members of, cooperating non-members of, or whose vessels fish in the areas of competency of, these organizations to actively promote the adoption and implementation of such measures; and
5. *Requests* the IOSEA Secretariat to transmit this resolution to the Director General of FAO and to the Secretary and Executive Director of the IOTC and WCPFC, respectively.