



# International Whaling Commission

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02 April 1998

**CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.23**

**UN General Assembly Resolution 52/29**

The Secretary has received a letter (enclosed with the postal version of this Circular Communication) concerning the UN General Assembly Resolution 52/59 entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorised fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas; fisheries by-catch and discards; and other developments".

The UN requests that any submission from the IWC on these matters should be received in New York by 30 June 1998. The Secretary suggests that any Commissioner or Contracting Government wishing to suggest a response from the IWC should raise the matter at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Oman in May under the Agenda Item "Any other Business".

Dr. R. Gambell  
Secretary to the Commission

Enc.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

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REFERENCE: LOS/FISHERIES/98

24 March 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to General Assembly resolution 52/29 adopted on 26 November 1998 entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas; fisheries by-catch and discards; and other developments".

The relevant operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215, in particular to those provisions of the resolution calling for full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas;

"...

"7. *Notes* that no party to the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing on the high seas unless it has been authorized to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that party, and that a fishing vessel so authorized shall fish in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization;

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"...

"9. *Urges* States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action to adopt policies, apply measures, including through assistance to developing countries, collect and exchange data and develop techniques to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

"10. *Reiterates* its call on development assistance organizations to make it a high priority to support, including through financial and/or technical assistance, efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and invites them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

"12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated and duplication of activities and reporting minimized and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

"13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and biennially thereafter a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations referred to in paragraph 8 of the present resolution, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

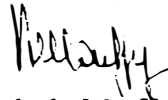
..."

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I would be grateful to receive by 30 June 1998 any submission that your organization may wish to make for the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution of the General Assembly. As stated in resolution 52/29, of particular interest is any information which could be provided on developments relating to the implementation of resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118, including actions or measures taken to: 1) ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas; 2) reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including assistance to developing countries to that end; and 3) provide financial and/or technical assistance to developing coastal States, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of their fishing regulations. Information thus submitted will be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

For wider and speedy dissemination of general information on the law of the sea, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has posted information on its "Oceans and Law of the Sea" home page. This page is designed as an official United Nations focal point for information regarding the oceans and the law of the sea. It endeavours to provide the users with a consolidated presentation of various marine-related topics and is organized according to major issues addressed in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, such as marine environment, marine resources, settlement of disputes, etc. The Division's Page can be accessed through the United Nations World Wide Web Home Page (<http://www.un.org/Depts/los>).

Yours sincerely,



Annick de Marffy  
Officer-in-Charge

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs