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RECOMMENDATION ON ADDITIONAL SIGNALS TO BE
USED BY VESSELS FISHING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

RESOLUTION A.132(V)
adopted on 25 October 1967

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the functions of the Assembly,

TAKING NOTE of the requirements for signals to be used by fishing vessels only whilst fishing in close proximity,

NOTING FURTHER the provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1960, and in particular Rule 13(a),

HAVING EXAMINED the Report of the fourteenth session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC XIV/20, paragraph 51(d) and Annex V),

HAVING NOTED that consideration has also been given to additional signals for vessels engaged in pair trawling, having their nets fast upon an obstruction and fishing with drift nets,

ADOPTS the Recommendation on additional signals for fishing vessels, the text of which appears in the Annex to this Resolution,

INVITES the Secretary-General to inform Member States accordingly,

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ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION ON ADDITIONAL SIGNALS TO BE USED
BY VESSELS FISHING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

1. General

- (a) Whilst the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea must be obeyed as appropriate, the Rules herein are intended to prevent damage to fishing gear or accidents in the course of fishing operations.
- (b) The Rules herein concerning lights shall apply in all weathers from sunset to sunrise, when vessels are engaged in fishing as a fleet and during such times no other lights shall be exhibited, except the lights prescribed in the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and such lights as cannot be mistaken for the prescribed lights or do not impair their visibility or distinctive character, or interfere with the keeping of a proper look-out. These lights may also be exhibited from sunrise to sunset in restricted visibility and in all other circumstances when it is deemed necessary.
- (c) For the purpose of these Rules the words employed shall have the meaning set down in the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- (d) The lights mentioned herein shall be placed where they can best be seen, they should be at least three feet apart but at a lower level than the lights prescribed in Rule 9(c)(i) and (d) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, visible all round the horizon as nearly as possible and their visibility

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shall be less than the visibility of lights prescribed by Rule 9(b) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

2. Signals for Trawlers

- (a) Vessels, when engaged in trawling, whether using demersal or pelagic gear may exhibit:
 - (i) when shooting their nets:
two white lights in a vertical line one over the other;
 - (ii) when hauling their nets:
one white light over one red light in a vertical line one over the other;
 - (iii) when the net has come fast upon an obstruction:
two red lights in a vertical line one over the other.
- (b) Each vessel engaged in pair trawling may exhibit:
 - (i) by night, a searchlight shone forward and in the direction of the other vessel of the pair;
 - (ii) vessels engaged in pair trawling when shooting or hauling their nets or when their nets have come fast upon an obstruction may show the lights agreed in 2(a) above.

3. Light Signals for Purse Seiners

Vessels engaged in fishing with purse seines may show two yellow coloured lights, in a vertical line one over the other. These lights shall be flashing intermittently about once a second in such a way that when the lower is out the upper is on and vice versa. These lights may only be shown while the vessel's

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free movement is hampered by its fishing gear, warning other vessels to keep clear of it.

4. Sound signals

No sound signals should be used other than those prescribed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and the International Code of Signals.*

* The following signals are from the International Code of Signals and may be made by sound:

- (a) "I am shooting nets" - "Z" (2 long 2 short blasts)
- (b) "I am hauling nets" - "G" (2 long 1 short blast)

