

RESOLUTION LDC.22(9)  
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS CAUSED BY THE DISPOSAL  
AT SEA OF PERSISTENT PLASTICS AND OTHER PERSISTENT SYNTHETIC MATERIALS  
(INCLUDING FISHING NETS)

ANNEX 6

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THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING,

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter prohibits the dumping at sea of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets and ropes) which may float or may remain in suspension in the sea in such a manner as to interfere materially with fishing, navigation or other legitimate uses of the sea;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), when in force, would prohibit the disposal into the sea of all plastics, including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets and plastic garbage bags, derived from the normal operation of vessels;

RECALLING Article I of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter which calls upon Contracting Parties to individually and collectively promote the effective control of all sources of pollution of the marine environment, and which pledges the Contracting Parties to take all practicable steps to prevent the pollution of the sea by dumping of waste and other matter that is liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea;

RECALLING Article XII of the Convention which, inter alia, pledges Contracting Parties to promote, within the competent specialized agencies and other international bodies, measures to protect the marine environment against pollution caused by wastes generated in the course of operation of vessels, aircraft, platforms and other man-made structures at sea;

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RECOGNIZING the harm from entanglement and ingestion to living resources and marine life caused by disposal at sea of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets);

BELIEVING that the hazard to living resources and marine life from entanglement and ingestion resulting from the interaction with persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets) requires further attention by competent international bodies;

- 1 REQUESTS the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization, to the Food and Agricultural Organization and to other competent international bodies this resolution and other information available from Contracting Parties on harm to living resources and marine life caused by disposal at sea of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets) and to report any actions taken by those bodies to the Tenth Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties to this Convention;
- 2 OFFERS to respond to any request for technical assistance from the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Food and Agricultural Organization and other competent international bodies, concerning harm to living resources and marine life caused by the deliberate disposal of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets) and on measures to reduce harm to living resources and marine life caused by these materials; and
- 3 PLEDGES to co-ordinate activities with the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Food and Agricultural Organization and other competent international bodies on the disposal of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets);

URGES Contracting Parties to consider measures for collecting and disseminating information on the hazards to living resources and marine life caused by the disposal of persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials (including fishing nets) and to identify practicable means to reduce these hazards.

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