Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Sustainable exploitation of living marine resources

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly refers to its many recommendations and resolutions on the marine environment and, more specifically, to its Resolution 972 (1991) on the future of ocean fisheries and its Resolution 1012 (1993) on marine mammals.

2. The Assembly recognises the complex nature of the study, exploitation and multiple uses of the marine ecosystem.

3. It is aware that Europe has an important and diversified scientific and technological knowledge base covering most aspects of fisheries and other uses of marine ecosystems.

4. The Assembly is concerned that this considerable knowledge and know-how should be optimally used for the benefit of mankind and life on earth by assuring the conservation and sustainable use of the marine ecosystem.

5. It welcomes in this connection the setting up, within the European Science Foundation, of a European Board for Marine Science.

6. Consequently, the Assembly decides to study the multiple institutional arrangements and activities centred on the management of the exploitation of living marine resources, including their links to other multiple uses of the marine ecosystem.

7. It therefore instructs its Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, in close cooperation with the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities, to carry out such a study. The latter should propose ways and means of improving the co-ordination and use of European knowledge and know-how for the management of the multiple uses of marine ecosystems, in particular fisheries, aquaculture and related activities, and for the improvement of information to political decision-makers and the public on ocean ecosystems and their multiple uses, as well as for ensuring proper enforcement of agreed conservation measures.

1. See Doc. 7514, report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, rapporteurs: MM. Arata and Holte. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 29 May 1996.