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Resolution Resulting From  
The North Pacific Rim Fishermen's Conference  
On Marine Debris  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

by  
Conference Steering Committee

Submitted to the  
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by the  
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RESOLUTION RESULTING FROM  
THE NORTH PACIFIC RIM FISHERMEN'S CONFERENCE  
ON MARINE DEBRIS  
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY FROM CANADA, THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND THE UNITED  
STATES PRESENT AT THE NORTH PACIFIC RIM FISHERMEN'S CONFERENCE ON  
MARINE DEBRIS;

RECOGNIZING THAT SYNTHETIC MARINE DEBRIS HAVING VARIOUS  
ORIGINS, INCLUDING LOST AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR CONSTITUTES A  
GROWING THREAT TO MARINE LIFE AS WELL AS SAFETY AT SEA;

REALIZING THAT MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING A PRODUCTIVE OCEAN  
ENVIRONMENT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD'S FISHING INDUSTRIES  
AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT THE FISHING INDUSTRIES SHOULD MAKE  
EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT THE DETERIORATION OF THE OCEAN  
ENVIRONMENT BY PROMOTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND INITIATING  
PROCEDURES WHICH WILL LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF MARINE DEBRIS, IN  
PARTICULAR PLASTIC MATERIALS, BEING DISCHARGED INTO THE WORLD'S  
OCEANS;

FURTHER REALIZING THAT THE REDUCTION OF SUCH DEBRIS WILL BENEFIT FISHERMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS WELL AS OTHER USERS OF THE OCEAN ENVIRONMENT;

AND NOTING THAT THE PROBLEMS OF MARINE DEBRIS ARE DISTINCT AND SEPARATE FROM THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH INCIDENTAL CATCHES MADE DURING FISHING;

COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE REALIZATION OF THE FOLLOWING GOALS;

1. EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO INSURE THAT PLASTIC MATERIALS ARE NOT DISCARDED AT SEA AND LOSS OF FISHING GEAR BE AVOIDED WHERE POSSIBLE. THIS GOAL SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY INCINERATION OF NON-TOXIC COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS WHEN FEASIBLE, RETENTION OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS FOR SHORESIDE RECYCLING OR DISPOSAL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ON-BOARD PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING PERSISTENT PLASTICS.
2. A MAXIMUM EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REDUCE THE QUANTITIES OF SYNTHETIC REFUSE ON BOARD BY MINIMAL USE OF PLASTICS PACKAGING MATERIALS AND THROUGH USE OF WASHABLE DISHWARE AND OTHER EATING UTENSILS.

3. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES WHICH WILL LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE LOSS OF FISHING GEAR AND WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE RECOVERY OF FISHING GEARS.
4. EARLY ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MARPOL OPTIONAL ANNEX V WHICH PROHIBITS DISCHARGE OF ALL PLASTIC MATERIALS SHOULD BE PROMOTED ALONG WITH NEEDED DOMESTIC REGULATIONS.
5. BECAUSE OF THE GLOBAL CHARACTER OF MARINE DEBRIS AND THE MULTITUDE OF USER GROUPS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROBLEM THE FISHING GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE OTHER INDUSTRIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE MARINE DEBRIS PROBLEM TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS.
6. FISHING GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROMOTE LOCAL PROGRAMS TO FURTHER THE EDUCATION OF FISHERMEN, PORT AUTHORITIES, RESOURCE MANAGERS, OTHER SEAFARERS AND THE GENERAL

PUBLIC REGARDING THE SCOPE, MAGNITUDE AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE GROWING MARINE DEBRIS PROBLEM.

7. FISHING VESSEL OPERATORS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO POST IN PLAIN VIEW A NOTICE TO OFFICERS AND CREW THAT DISCHARGE OF PLASTIC MATERIALS INTO THE OCEANS IS CONTRARY TO PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL LAW WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME INTO FORCE IN DECEMBER 1988.
8. PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE WILL ENCOURAGE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS TO COOPERATE WITH DOCK/PORT AUTHORITIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE SHORESIDE REFUSE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.

## IDENTIFIED RESEARCH NEEDS

Participants in the North Pacific Rim Fishermen's Conference on Marine Debris identified and discussed a number of research areas which may warrant investigation by government, university and industry scientists. These include:

1. Continuation and expansion of national and international studies concerned with quantifying the population level impacts of marine debris on living organisms.
2. Expansion of national and international studies of the density, distribution and movement of marine debris in the world's oceans.
3. Identification of candidate fishing gears and methods for which alternate materials or operating procedures may reduce their likelihood of becoming hazardous marine debris.
4. Studies to assess the feasibility of and impediments to the recycling of waste fishing gear and other vessel-generated wastes.
5. Studies to improve shoreside reception and management of vessel generated wastes. In particular the Conference members noted the need to assist in the development of integrated waste management systems. This need is particularly acute in remote fishing communities such as those in western Alaska.
6. Studies to develop safe and effective shipboard incineration methods and other technologies for

shipboard waste handling, storage and transfer to shoreside facilities.

7. Examination of cost-effective systems to facilitate the identification, recovery and return to port or owners of lost fishing gear.
8. Quantification of the economic losses to fishing and recreational vessels caused by marine debris.
9. Continuation and expansion of beach surveys to monitor trends in marine debris abundance and type. This is particularly important in the North Pacific but warrants consideration in other ocean regions.