

RESOLUTION 80 -I

Discharge of Chlorine in Estuarine Waters

WHEREAS, chlorine is an extremely toxic biocide and affects a very broad range of species from bacteria to plants and animals and even to man; and

WHEREAS, chlorine has been documented as the direct cause of many fish kills, and chlorine or its derivatives are highly and rightly suspect in a great many more fish kills; and

WHEREAS, chlorine has been shown to inhibit shellfish production in our bays and estuaries; and

WHEREAS, chlorine is widely used as a disinfectant and antifoulant for sewage treatment plant effluents in millions of pounds annually being discharged into the aquatic environment; and

WHEREAS, many sewage treatment plant operators have a tendency to overdose with chlorine to cover up inefficiencies of the plant's operational system; and

WHEREAS, chlorine is expensive in terms of both energy and dollars; and

WHEREAS, the addition of chlorine to sewage effluent does not accomplish its purported mission of protecting the public health;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, assembled in Hershey, Pennsylvania, for its 39th Annual Meeting, respectfully requests that those government agencies responsible for permitting the discharge of chlorine into our waters take immediate action to:

- reevaluate their policies on disinfection with chlorine,
- seek alternate disinfection less toxic to marine organisms than is chlorine,
- severely limit the use of chlorine where necessary, and prohibit its use where possible,
- seek and adopt better methods of handling and using chlorine in existing systems, and
- explore and use, where appropriate, dechlorination procedures in existing systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, copies of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the U.S. Public Health Service, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, affected States' agencies, Departments of Public Health, Directors of Natural Resources, and Governors. *Adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission by mail ballot subsequent to the 39th Annual Meeting, October 6-9, 1980, Hershey, Pennsylvania.*