

RESOLUTION 90-I

Marine, Estuarine and Riverine Habitat Policy Resolution of Agreement

WHEREAS, the fishery stocks which inhabit the coastal rivers, estuaries, and shelf waters of the eastern seaboard of the United States represent commercial and recreational resources of enormous economic and social value to tile citizens of our country; and,

WHEREAS, management of these resources is tile responsibility of the states, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and tile Federal government acting through the three regional Fishery Management Councils, namely, New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic; and,

WHEREAS, the efforts to conserve and manage these fishery resources, the necessary habitat, and water quality are the management responsibilities of the aforementioned organizations; and, further that Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) developed by the Commission and Regional Councils include a detailed Habitat Section dealing with the preservation of the fishery environment and the assessment of the degradation caused by human activities; and,

WHEREAS, the state, interstate, and federal agencies that enforce law or are designated and authorized by law to monitor, assess, permit and/or regulate human activities that affect the habitat, water quality, and the fish stocks; and, further that these agencies (state agencies, interstate compacts, and NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), share with tile Commission and Fishery Management Councils a pressing responsibility to address the impact of their planning and regulatory activities affecting the status of fishery resources which are clearly defined in the provisions of FMPs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RE'SOLVED that the Commission, recognizing the requirement for improved coordination, agrees to actively implement the "Unified Marine Habitat Policy Statement" presented on May 16, 1990 in Washington, D.C., with final revision dated November 7, 1990, attached hereto and made a part hereof, and calls upon tile Regional Councils and federal agencies named above to do so also.