

## Decision on Cold-Water Coral Reefs

*Adopted during the ICRI General Meeting (GM)  
3-4 July 2004, Okinawa (Japan)*

**Recognising** the richness in biodiversity of cold-water coral reefs and the threats that they face from, inter alia, unsustainable fishing and use of the sea bed and climate change;

**Noting** that cold-water coral reefs are highly relevant to ICRI's Call to Action and further noting calls made in international fora to address the threats that vulnerable marine ecosystems face in areas both within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

**Agrees** that ICRI should include cold water corals and related ecosystems within its remit including, inter alia, calling upon competent authorities and other bodies to take appropriate action to conserve, protect and manage cold-water coral reefs and related ecosystems in a sustainable way.

**Decides** to extend the Ad Hoc Committee in order to prepare terms of reference and a draft work programme on cold-water coral reefs and related ecosystems for consideration by the next CPC that will, inter alia:

- identify opportunities to raise awareness and recognition of cold-water coral reefs and the threats that they face;
- encourage additional study and monitoring of cold-water coral reefs;
- work with the Secretariat to identify and invite countries that are known to have cold-water coral reefs but are not currently members of ICRI to participate;
- identify opportunities for capacity-building; and
- review what implementation modalities, if any, might be needed, including a review of the potential implications for ICRI's current work and the potential role of ICRI operational networks.

**Urges** existing ICRI members with cold-water coral reefs to actively participate in this Committee and to volunteer as lead countries to take forward elements of the work programme;

**Agrees** that an update of progress made by the Working Group should be provided at CPC meetings and that the Secretariat should consider whether a separate session on cold-water coral reefs is required as an addition to each CPC meeting;

**Agrees** that ICRI's work on cold-water coral reefs will be additional work that will complement ICRI's ongoing work on tropical coral reefs.