

Declaration of a Libyan Fisheries Protection Zone in the Mediterranean Sea

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Considering its international obligations in the area of protection of the marine environment and preservation of the living resources of the Mediterranean Sea,

Desiring to help ensure reasonable and sustainable exploitation within the framework of rational management of those resources,

Seeking to protect marine fisheries against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing,

Pursuant to the Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, adopted by the parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution concluded in February AD 1976, and in particular the following provision of article 1 of the Protocol: "The Contracting Parties to this Protocol ... shall take all appropriate measures with a view to protecting those marine areas which are important for the safeguard of the natural resources and natural sites of the Mediterranean Sea Area",

Pursuant also to the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted on 24 November AD 1993 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the twenty-seventh session, by its resolution 15/93, and in particular the provisions of article 3 thereof concerning the responsibility of the flag State to "take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag do not engage in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures",

Pursuant further to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, adopted on 31 October AD 1995 by the FAO Conference at its twenty-eighth session, by its resolution 4/95, which lays down the principles and standards to be applied for the conservation, management and development of all resources and provides the necessary framework for national and international efforts aimed at guaranteeing sustainable exploitation of living marine resources, in harmony with the environment, especially the provision of paragraph 7.1.1. of article 7, "Fisheries management", which reads: "... all those engaged in fisheries management should, through an appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework, adopt measures for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. Conservation and management measures, whether at local, national, subregional or regional levels, should be based on the best scientific evidence available and be designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of fishery resources at levels which promote the objective of their optimum utilization and maintain their availability for present and future generations; short-term considerations should not compromise these objectives",

With a view to promoting the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean, held in Venice on 25 and 26 November 2003, paragraph 10 of which states: "we consider that the creation of fisheries protection zones permits the improvement of conservation and

control of fisheries and thus contributes to better resource management and to our common commitment to combat IUU [illegal, unreported and unregulated] fishing”,

Declares:

I. That the area of the Mediterranean Sea lying north of the boundaries of Libyan territorial waters and extending seaward for a distance of 62 nautical miles, measured from the territorial sea line, is a fisheries zone subject to Libyan sovereignty and jurisdiction in which fishing, be it domestic or foreign, of any kind, for any purpose and by any means is prohibited unless the competent Libyan authorities have issued a permit to the person or persons concerned to conduct fishing operations in such areas in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Great Jamahiriya.

II. The present Declaration shall enter into force as from the date of its issuance and shall be deposited with the United Nations. It shall be published in all the media both locally and internationally.

(Signed) [Illegible]
General People's Committee
Decisions
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Issued in Tripoli on 16 Muharram the year 1373 from the death of the Prophet (24 February 2005).
