



## **KIMO RESOLUTION 3/94**

### **MARINE NATURE RESERVES**

The Northern Seas of Europe are extraordinarily rich in life of all kinds, from the great number of sea birds, kelp forests, seals and dolphins to the great shoals of fish. If the use of marine resources is not sustainable then employment will suffer, as will the amazing wildlife that the seas support. Coastal communities, conservation groups, fishermen and other industries will have to work together to improve the protection of the marine environment.

The results of human activities in the marine environment are rarely visible, but they are still present. Headline making incidents, such as the MV Braer & Sea Empress oil tanker disasters, are only a small part of the problem. More often the threats come from day - to - day events - from small scale pollution, over fishing, shipping, mineral extraction, offshore developments and the many other uses that is made of the sea.

Although the conservation of the countryside receives much attention marine conservation is still at a very early stage. A system of managed marine reserves has proved beneficial in a number of countries including New Zealand and the United States. At the Leigh Marine Reserve in New Zealand, established in 1977 after much controversy, substantial benefits have accrued, including a twenty - fold increase in the numbers of crayfish. It is important to recognise the importance of the development of sustainable fishing industry.

The better management of special marine areas is now required under European Union Habitats and Species Directive (EC Directive 92/43).

### **KIMO**

**Having regard that the marine ecology is of prime importance for the sustainable development of coastal communities surrounding Northern Seas, and recognising the current threats to fish and other species:**

- 1) Supports the principle to establish (MARINE NATURE RESERVES), both inshore and offshore, to not only protect existing resources, but to seek the recovery of the marine ecosystem in Northern Seas.**
- 2) Agrees to submit this Resolution to all National Governments, the European Commission and other agencies.**