

**PARTICIPATION OF THE IHO IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENTS IN OCEAN AFFAIRS  
(30 May-2 June 2000)**

Reference: IHB CL 12/2000 dated 16 March 2000.

Dear Sir,

1. As reported in the above-referenced Circular Letter, Rear Admiral ANGRISANO, President of the IHB Directing Committee and Captain F. BERMEJO, IHB Professional Assistant (Technical Co-operation), represented the IHO at the above meeting, which was held from 30 May to 2 June 2000 at the UN Headquarters in New York. By decision of the two co-chairmen appointed by the UN Secretary General, the discussions of this first meeting were focused on two main subjects :

1. RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES & ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED AND UNREPORTED FISHERIES
2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION, ESPECIALLY IN COASTAL AREAS

The IHO representatives participated actively in the discussions and presented a report, which is summarized in the July/August issue of the I.H. Bulletin.

The IHO report was received with interest by the delegates from the UN nations and other international organisations, and the following specific recommendations were included in the Report to the UN General Assembly:

1. that the Food and Agriculture Organization should consider inviting the International Labour Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Trade Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity to join the biennial conference of regional fisheries organizations.
2. that a consequent invitation be addressed to the ACC (Administrative Committee on Coordination) Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas to prepare a paper for the next meeting of the consultative process following the steps that FAO, IAEA, IHO, IMO, IOC, ISBA, the UN Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, WMO and the World Bank, as competent international organizations, have already taken to assist in the fulfilment of these obligations.
3. that a second meeting of the consultative process be called to consider the issues of marine science and technology, and to focus on how best to fulfil the many obligations of States and competent international organizations under Parts XIII and XIV of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. that the following issues be included on the agendas of future meetings:

- Capacity building
- Development and transfer of marine science and technology
- Marine protected areas
- Strengthening regional seas programmes etc.

As can be seen from the above, the IHO is now considered at the same level as the specialized agencies of the U.N. and should, in the future, be capable of providing adequate technical support in the areas of IHO competence.

The IHB will continue to keep the IHO Member States informed about this issue and will request input for future meetings.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO  
President