

Resolution A.709(17)
Adopted on 6 November 1991
(Agenda item 10)

**AVOIDANCE BY SUBMERGED SUBMARINES
OF FISHING VESSELS AND THEIR FISHING GEAR**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.599(15) on avoidance by submerged submarines of fishing vessels and their fishing gear by which the Assembly recommended that a submerged submarine, if information of the presence of a fishing vessel and its fishing gear is available, should, as far as possible, keep out of the way of that fishing vessel and any fishing gear connected to it unless the submarine is disabled,

CONSIDERING the danger to a fishing vessel when its fishing gear is entangled by a submerged submarine,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the navigational and safety information available to submarines and fishing vessels and the fact that a fishing vessel would have no information that a submerged submarine is operating in its vicinity and also that a submarine might not have information that a fishing vessel is operating in its vicinity,

BEING CONCERNED at recent casualties involving submarines and fishing vessels which have resulted in loss of life,

1. RECOMMENDS that a submerged submarine, if information of the presence of a fishing vessel and its fishing gear is available, should, as far as possible, keep out of the way of that fishing vessel and any fishing gear connected to it unless the submarine is disabled;
2. INVITES Governments to:
 - (a) bring the above recommendation and the concern expressed in this resolution to the attention of authorities, commanders and officers responsible for operating submarines;
 - (b) develop local arrangements to establish procedures to promote safety of fishing vessels and submarines in areas considered prone to mishaps between fishing vessels and submerged submarines; and
 - (c) ensure that submarines navigating through areas where vessels are known to fish use all reasonably available means for determining the presence of such vessels and their fishing gear to avoid endangering such vessels and their gear;
3. REVOKES resolution A.599(15).