

## **CNL(03)35**

### **The Application of the Precautionary Approach as it pertains to Guidelines on By-Catch of Salmon**

The Council decides that, consistent with the Precautionary Approach, it will:

- (a) encourage and seek appropriate funding for research on the distribution of salmon at sea, on the spatial and temporal overlap between salmon at sea and pelagic fisheries, on the vertical distribution and behaviour of salmon in the feeding areas and on the by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries;
- (b) encourage pilot studies on technical adjustments to the deployment of gear in pelagic fisheries so as to minimise by-catch of salmon;
- (c) review the results of the research referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) at its 2005 Annual Meeting or a Special Session;
- (d) in the light of the findings of the research referred to in (a) and (b) above, request that, if appropriate, the Parties, non-Parties and other Fisheries Commissions make adjustments be made to fishing methods so as to minimise the by-catch of salmon;
- (e) continue to ask ICES to provide information on the by-catch of salmon in any new fisheries for other species and of the by-catch of other species in salmon gear.

The Council also reiterates its recommendation to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board that projects to assess by-catch be afforded a high priority by the Board.