

11 October, 2005

Text of motion passed by Australian Senate further to Greens' motion calling for the consideration of a moratorium on bottom trawling in the high seas until international sustainable management practices are in place.

That the Senate:

- a) Notes the damage that may be caused to deep sea coral and sponge communities by destructive fishing practices;
- b) Recognises that fishing States are obliged to either join or cooperate with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. States that do not do so should refrain from fishing for the species and in the areas over which such organisations have competence;
- c) Acknowledges that some species living on and around seamounts in the South East of Australia, require additional protection and therefore, some fishing methods are not permitted in identified areas;
- d) Commends the Government for taking steps, on a case by case basis and based on science, toward protecting some deep sea coral and sponge ecosystems inside Australia's EEZ;
- e) Supports the development and implementation of an effective, legally binding governance framework to protect deep sea biodiversity in the high seas area and to conserve and manage bottom fisheries of the high seas consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and 2004 UN General Assembly resolution 59/25.