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## **Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Third Conference of the Parties**

*September 26-28, 2006 – Mazatlán, México*

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**COP3/2006/R-7**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CIT)**

The Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA), an integral part of the Central American Integration System (SICA), represented by Mr. Luís Paris Chaverri, *Pro Tempore* President of OSPESCA, hereinafter called OSPESCA and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, represented by the *Pro Tempore* Secretary of the Convention and hereinafter called the IAC, have decided to sign the present Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with the following terms:

#### **I. CONSIDERING:**

That the main objective of the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA) is to promote a coordinated development of fishing and aquaculture activities within the framework of Central American integration and particularly within the new policy for Integration of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

That the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

That it is highly desirable for the development of the Countries within the Central American Region to coordinate the projects and activities of their regional bodies with those of international organizations so that their results constitute a positive impact in achieving their respective objectives;

That the OSPESCA Board of Ministers has approved and enforced, since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the new Integration of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the purpose of establishing a common regional system in order to increase the integrated participation of Central American countries and, therefore, contributing to the appropriate and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.



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That it is necessary to make every effort to avoid sea turtles from becoming endangered or threatened with extinction;

That the feeding, migration and nesting habitats of some sea turtles may coincide with areas that carry out industrial and artisanal fishing; and that sea turtles play an important ecological role in marine ecosystems; and

That OSPESCA and the IAC want to achieve conservation and sustainable extractive and non-extractive uses of marine species and their habitats;

### **II. OSPESCA AND THE IAC AGREE TO:**

1. Establish collaboration in identifying joint policies, strategies and projects, in regards the areas of their objectives, as well as to implement specific actions that will be agreed upon and implemented through operative agreements by their technical and administrative bodies.
2. Produce and share information that assists in identifying opportunities for inter-institutional cooperation, with special attention given to sea turtle protection and conservation activities.
3. Recognize the importance of attending meetings organized by each other, on topics of common interest, and the need to collaborate so that positive results may be achieved from them.
4. Create and develop joint projects, such as the organizing of events and creating a regional database containing topics of interest for both Organizations.
5. Collaborate in the publication of books, maps, videos, posters or any other informative materials on issues that both Organizations consider should be public knowledge.

This Memorandum is subject to modification if both Parties so decide.

None of the clauses of this Memorandum can be considered a renunciation of the privileges and immunities of the Parties.

The formal agreement to be established should fall within the norms established in the framework of each of the Constitutive Agreements of OSPESCA and the IAC;

Both Organizations periodically examine the implementation of this Memorandum, taking the necessary measures to facilitate or expand their cooperation.



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OSPESCA and the IAC guarantee the adequate and effective protection of the intellectual property created or resulting from the activities carried out in the framework of this Memorandum.

The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this Agreement may be published or used with the consent of the OSPESCA and the IAC, by means of specific contracts and in conformity with existing relevant international agreements.

Mazatlán, México September 2006

**FOR OSPESCA**

**FOR THE IAC**

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Luis París Chaverri  
*Pro Tempore* President  
OSPESCA

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Marco Solano  
*Pro Tempore* Secretary  
IAC

Place and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

