Underwater Archaeology Resolutions
Adopted by International Congress of Maritime Museums
Barcelona, Spain
10 September 1993

1. In regard to collecting policy, ICMM member museums should follow the provisions of the ICOM code of Professional Ethics, the ICOMOS Charter, and the UNESCO Convention.

2. That ICMM member museums should follow sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the ICOM Code of Professional Ethics and that in particular, "each museum authority should adopt and publish a written statement of its collections policy...[and]...museum[s] should not acquire by purchase [or donation] objects...where...their recovery involved the recent unscientific or international destruction or damage of...archaeological sites..." Museums with collections from underwater archaeological sites should each adopt and publish either a written statement of their general collecting policy or a written policy relating specifically to collections from underwater archaeological sites.

3. That ICMM member museums should follow the Council of American Maritime Museums (CAMM) policy and "...not knowingly acquire or exhibit artifacts which have been stolen, illegally exported from their country of origin, illegally salvaged, or removed from commercially exploited archaeological or historic sites" in recent times (ie. since the 1990 full Congress of ICMM).

4. That ICMM members should report to the responsible authorities any illegal activities at underwater sites or auction or sale of artifacts from illegally excavated underwater sites in their countries.

5. That ICMM members should recognize that artifacts from underwater sites are integral parts of archaeological assemblages, which should remain intact for research and display.

6. That ICMM should explore ways for more member institutions to involve students from academic institutions in the study of their archaeological collections.

In these resolutions a commercially exploited heritage site is one in which the primary motive for investigation is private financial gain.