

*To the esteemed Board of 'Hydra Seal', the Ecological Association of Hydra, humble servants beloved of God, may divine joy and peace be with you,*

We thank you for informing us in your letter of 24 February 2011 that your Association is organising a cross-party meeting of fisheries professionals and those living from and by the sea on 20 March 2011 in Nea Kios, in the Prefecture of Argolis, and welcome this news.

As a result of mankind's folly and the lack of sufficient and effective corrective action, environmental problems are becoming apparent and are encompassing the whole planet. The pollution of the seas, the destruction of the tropical rainforests, the dramatic decrease in biodiversity, desertification of some areas of the planet and climate change with all its multiple negative consequences are threatening the integrity of divine creation and are leading very rapidly to a degradation in the quality of life.

It is now obvious that these immense problems cannot be solved by the actions of scientists and politicians in isolation, but require more far-reaching strategies on the part of community groups and in particular those who are most immediately threatened. For this reason we congratulate you on your proposal to hold a meeting of fisheries professionals with environmental and professional objectives. Fishermen are uncontrovertibly affected by the pollution of the seas and the loss of maritime biodiversity, but also from the extreme climatic events that are leading to climate change. With the appropriate awareness raising, for which you have accepted responsibility, they can constitute strong allies in bringing about the solutions for resolving these problems.

We therefore express our satisfaction and hope that the gathering will be successful, and ask that you keep us informed of the results of this important meeting.

May the grace of God and His infinite mercy be with you always.

8 March 2011

Signed

Archbishop Bartholomew  
Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome, appointed by the Grace of God