

concerned with the resources of the sea: the harvesting of the living resources and the extraction of the mineral resources together with the question of their conservation and management. The Conference will also re-examine whether two other sea-related activities, navigation and scientific research, shall be subjected to virtually unlimited or regulated freedom. A further issue and one which has a direct bearing on all of these uses, is that relating to the protection of the marine environment. As the debate in the Seabed Committee has shown, all these uses are closely linked to one another, and any decision taken on one issue is bound to affect the outcome of other issues as well.

The Living Resources of the Sea

With the world's population in constant expansion, the demand for high-protein food, such as can be derived from the living resources of the oceans, has been increasing rapidly. Although modern fishing vessels and gear are better able than ever to satisfy these needs, their very capability to exploit any fish stock through highly concentrated efforts is now threatening the world's fisheries with over exploitation and possible extinction. These developments make it urgent for the participants in the coming Conference to settle two series of related problems in connection with the living resources of the sea issue, namely the conservation of these resources and their utilization.

There already exists the 1958 Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Resources of the High Seas which established a set of loose and general rules to govern the conduct of fishing. This Convention is, however, basically concerned with freedom of fishing outside territorial waters and oriented towards conservation only. It does not address itself to the basic problems of proper management of these resources and of their equitable distribution.

Canada's attitude is based upon a comprehensive functional approach to the Law of the Sea whereby management of fisheries is considered as forming part of the broader concept of management of the marine environment as a whole. This approach was adopted by the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in a statement which reads as follows: