

Also in 1979, the Convention of Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, which establishes the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), entered into force. This Agreement further consolidates the international legal regime which regulates fishing within the Convention area lying beyond the area of national fisheries jurisdiction. As of September 1979, instruments of ratification for NAFO had been deposited by Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, the EEC, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Romania and the USSR.

Of particular importance to Canada is the fact that the NAFO Convention recognizes Canada's special interest in certain stocks beyond 200 nautical miles. Nevertheless, a serious threat to NAFO's international conservation and management measures and to Canadian interests has developed as a result of the exploitation of fully utilized stocks by non-members of NAFO, including, in some instances, members of its predecessor organization, ICNAF. Negotiations are taking place to attempt to resolve this problem.