

The Draft Law of the Sea Convention produced at the end of the last session in Geneva, already represents a major step forward in restructuring the principles of the Law of the Sea and in developing new concepts of ocean resource management. These include the 12-mile territorial sea; the 200-mile exclusive economic zone; the sovereign rights of the coastal state over the resources of the continental shelf to 200 miles or, beyond, to the outer edge of the margin; the primary interest of the state of origin in respect of salmon spawned in its rivers; international powers of the coastal state for the prevention of pollution from ships in Arctic waters; and enhanced measures for the prevention of pollution in other waters.

The Drafting Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Beesley, held a very productive intersessional meeting from January 11 to February 27 and has nearly completed its task of putting the draft into acceptable treaty language.

With a vital interest in the Law of the Sea, Canada is committed to the successful conclusion of the Conference this year.