

while on the other hand the true maritime states support only those conventions which directly affect them. Further, most of the provisions of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea have already been accepted as customary law. Ratification per se has less practical meaning now. That all states support the IMO may be one of the more significant factors, for it is through this agency that progress is being made in such issues as SAR coordination and countering piracy and terrorism at sea.

There are two scientific UN Regional Seas Conventions which might eventually have some potential for expansion and might lead to a comprehensive regime based on respect for international maritime law. These are:

- a) 1976 Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, (also known as the Barcelona Convention or the Mediterranean Action Plan) with a series of protocols dealing with scientific issues and communication between organizations. Of the eastern Mediterranean states only Egypt and Turkey are part of that process.
- b) 1982 Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Environment, has been signed by all the littoral states except Egypt, Israel and Djibouti.

A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING NCBMs

In order for an NCBM process to be initially successful, some underlying degree of trust between states is essential. Without a sense of mutual trust, furthering the process by introducing more effective measures (ie. more intrusive) is essentially impossible. Keeping in mind that success in NCBM negotiations depends heavily on the orderly implementation of each stage, each phase is dependent on the advances made by the previous stage. An evolutionary process, founded on initiatives