

Although it was then hoped by both governments that we could work out a global agreement encompassing fishing arrangements off the East and West Coasts and the settlement of the contested maritime boundaries, it gradually emerged that, because of the large size of the disputed area and the very substantial economic and social implications, the problems on the East Coast were more likely to be amenable to agreed solutions. Accordingly, in the last few months, the Negotiators have concentrated their efforts on the East Coast problems.

The result is two recommendations which have now been accepted by both governments. One is that the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area be referred to binding third party settlement procedures. Details of the third party process such as the forum, its composition, and the particular procedures relating to the case to be submitted to the Court or tribunal, will have to be worked out in further negotiations which are now being undertaken on an urgent basis, and indeed have already achieved a good measure of success. The Negotiators have also recommended, and the Governments have approved, a permanent Atlantic Coast Fisheries Agreement. Full substantive agreement has been reached on the three basic issues relating to fish stocks of common interest:

- (1) the management regime;
- (2) the entitlement or share which each country will take; and
- (3) the area of access.

It still remains, however, for officials to put this agreement in final, treaty language, and this task is also now being undertaken as a matter of urgency.