

Canada-France maritime boundary negotiations were initiated following the extension, in 1977, of Canadian fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles and the establishment of a 200-mile French economic zone off St. Pierre and Miquelon. The discussions were pursued in 1981 but no agreement was reached. French vessels continued to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to the 1972 Canada-France fisheries agreement.

During 1981, Canada participated in the negotiation of an Atlantic salmon convention which was adopted at a diplomatic conference in Reykjavik on January 22, 1982. The final act was signed by Canada, USA, EEC, Iceland, Norway and Denmark (for the Faroe Islands). The purpose of the treaty is to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation. In establishing the functions of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, the treaty recognizes the desirability of reducing intercepting fisheries and prohibits the harvesting of salmon beyond the territorial seas except off Greenland (40 miles) and the Faroe Islands (200 miles).

At a meeting held in November 1981, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna recommended a reduction in the harvest of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic Ocean. This decision was made on the basis of scientific advice and responded to repeated Canadian demands for greater regulatory action to protect declining bluefin stocks.

NAFO held its annual meeting in Halifax, in September 1981, to establish conservation and management measures for three fish stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area and for stocks overlapping Canadian fisheries waters. The decision by NAFO to eliminate the customary special reservations for Spain was of particular note. That decision followed two earlier NAFO decisions: the first, in April, allocated quotas to Spain on the understanding that its vessels would comply with NAFO conservation and enforcement regulations and participate in the NAFO Scientific Observer Scheme; the second, in June, called on Spain to cease fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area because its vessels had not complied with the April decision.

Outer space law

Canada continued to play a major role in 1981 regarding two items before the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and its Legal Sub-Committee: direct broadcasting by satellites (DBS) and the use of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer space.

Although attempts to develop international principals governing the use of DBS go back to 1973 at least, general agreement was still not achieved in 1981. At the twentieth session of the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva, Canada co-sponsored a negotiating text with 11 (later 15) other delegations, which took into account discussions at the session and was submitted as a basis for discussion at the 1981 twenty-fourth session of UNCOPUOS. General agreement eluded delegations there too, though, mainly as a result of disagreement over the last principle entitled "Consultation and