

ARTICLE XV

Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to prejudice the positions or views of any Party with respect to the rights and obligations under treaties and other international agreements to which it is party as well as its positions or views with respect to matters relating to the law of the sea.

ARTICLE XVI

The original of this Convention shall be deposited with the Government of the Russian Federation, which shall be the depositary. The depositary shall transmit certified copies thereof to all other States and existing States.

ARTICLE XVII

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, which are the major States of origin of straddling stocks within the Convention Area.

2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by these four States in accordance with their respective internal legal procedures, and will enter into force ninety days after the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

ARTICLE XVIII

After the entry into force of this Convention, at the invitation of the Depositary Parties by unanimous agreement, other States may accede to it. This Convention shall become effective for any such State on the date of deposit of that State's instrument of accession.