

The treaty would, for example, oblige all states to undertake the fundamental commitment to preserve the marine environment, to conserve its living resources, and to cooperate in the carrying out of scientific research. They would establish a single - twelve mile - limit for the territorial sea throughout the world. They would result in a major reallocation of resources as between distant water fishing states and coastal states, and, more importantly perhaps, from developed to developing states. They would effect a transfer of powers and jurisdiction on many issues - with the notable exception of military uses - from the most powerful states to the less powerful. They would give recognition to the concept of the archipelagic state, consisting of sovereignty over the waters of the archipelago - of particular interest to the Bahamas, for example - with clearly defined rights of passage and over-flight through sea lanes. They would bind states to peaceful settlement procedures on most - unfortunately not all - issues. They would, moreover, establish something new in the history of man - an international management system for a major resource of the planet earth - the seabed beyond national jurisdiction. They would reserve this area for purely peaceful purposes. They would subject it to a legal regime governed by an international institution unlike anything now in existence. The international community would actually become engaged in economic development activities whose benefits would be shared by mankind as a whole. Interestingly, the UN, in the process,