

Conservation has, of course, done much to maintain the productivity of the living resources of the high seas, and, as it has now received full expression in the Convention on High Seas Fishing adopted by the International Conference on the Law of the Sea, it will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the living resources of the sea will not be exploited to the detriment of the coastal states or of the world community. But the conservation principle, while recognizing the special interests of coastal states in maintaining the productivity of the living resources in their adjacent seas, does not reserve a reasonable coastal belt for the use of fishermen of the coastal states, even though many of their communities may largely depend for their livelihood on the preservation of the fishing stock in the nearby seas. It is to achieve this purpose that the Canadian proposal provides for more adequate fisheries jurisdiction extending six miles beyond the territorial sea.

While some emphasis appears to have been placed in public discussions on the differences between the United States and Canadian proposals at the First Geneva Conference, these proposals have, in reality, a great deal in common. As distinct from other proposals, both aim, in the interest of the freedom of the seas and for general reasons of peace and security, at restricting the limit of the territorial sea to a maximum of six miles. Both also accept the concept of a separate contiguous fishing zone comprising a further six miles.

The only difference between the two proposals relates to "traditional" or "historic" fishing rights. These are rights claimed in the six-to-twelve-mile zone adjacent to certain states by countries whose fishermen have in the past carried on and who continue to carry on distant-water fishing operations in that zone.

The newer nations of the world do not and, in the nature of things, cannot possess "traditional" fishing rights in distant waters; nor do they very often possess as yet well-developed fisheries in