coasts and the polluted atmosphere in Chuquicamata, have been brought to the attention of authorities by the public, because these problems were impossible to ignore.

1.3.- ACTUAL LEGISLATION

Actually, there are about 2,000 legal norms and regulations related to diverse environmental issues, but they do not make a coherent legal body. These environmental norms and regulations were elaborated with different objectives, of which many are contradictory and anachronous. At present, CIPMA is gathering all legal norms and regulations concerning the environment. This document will be available this year. Some of the general laws regarding environment are:

-The 1980 Chilean Constitution establishes in the 19mAt. Nº 8, that every citizen has the right to live in an environment free of contaminants, and that the State should look after this prerogative as well as it should preserve nature and in doing so the State has the right to impose specific restrictions to some liberties.

- Continental waters are legislated by the Código Sanitario (1944) that "forbids the discharge of industrial or mining wastes into waters that serve as drinking water source, recreational or irrigation, without previous depuration according the established norms". The President has the faculty of ordering standstill to any activity that contaminates water.

-Ministry of Public Health: Art.Nº2 Decreto Supremo Nº 144(1961): "Every activity that uses solid or liquid fuels should have the authorization of this Ministry".