

established with the remaining two.

With the implementation of the 200-mile limit, and the wide-spread belief that ICNAF, despite being the most efficient of the international regional conventions, was only partially successful in retarding the decline of fish stocks, Canada took the initiative in suggesting that the time was propitious to negotiate a new convention to incorporate the jurisdictional realities emerging from the Law of the Sea Conference and to develop a framework for the international management of fisheries resources beyond 200-mile limits on the Atlantic coast. As a result, Canada hosted two preparatory sessions in March and June and a full diplomatic conference in October. Among other aims, Canada hopes that the new convention will incorporate specific reference to the Canadian special interest in the two areas beyond the 200-mile limit.

In a step to clarify the state of fisheries relations between Canada and the United States, the two governments signed the 1977 Interim Fisheries Agreement on February 26. The treaty stipulates that both countries will continue to permit fishing by the other in its zone and will make every effort to preserve the existing patterns in the reciprocal fisheries. Pending the settlement of maritime boundaries, interim measures of mutual restraint would be followed in boundary regions. Enforcement would be conducted by the flag state in the case of Canadian and American vessels; neither state would authorize fishing by third parties in boundary areas; and either party may enforce against third parties. To hasten the settlement of the maritime boundaries issue special high level negotiators were appointed by the two governments.

On the Pacific, Canada entered into negotiations with the United States to replace the 1930 Fraser River Salmon Treaty with one to encompass the entire coast. While generally retaining the organizational framework established by the earlier Agreement, the new treaty would update arrangements to take into account recent problems arising from conservation and enhancement programs. This complicated issue centres around the need to devise a flexible formula to ensure that salmon raised in one country's enhancement program are not all caught by the other. This disincentive to develop conservation programs must be rectified by establishing a fair and equitable escapement program in order that the benefits of conservation and management accrue to the correct party. Negotiations on this