

## OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

After the formal debate concluded, the Chairman decided to convene seven informal contact groups (marine living resources, marine pollution, integrated coastal zone management, critical uncertainties and climate change, institutions, Antarctica, and whaling) to rewrite PC/42/Add.6 into a document which delegations could then use as basis for negotiating an Agenda 21 on oceans. Canada chaired the groups on marine living resources and marine pollution and drafted most of the language on these issues contained in the main oceans paper, L.18.

There were intense negotiations in the first two weeks to

- a) develop a framework for Agenda 21 on oceans; and
- b) negotiate as much as possible substantive issues for inclusion in the draft oceans text. Delegations had to await, however, the final outcome of Plenary deliberations on an overall framework for Agenda 21 and sort out some procedural problems before deciding to request that the Secretariat prepare a compilation for PrepCom IV, based on the two negotiated draft texts (L.18 and L.24), as well as submissions by delegations.

L.18 alone is a mammoth text (38 pages, 145 paragraphs with numerous square brackets), but is considered to be a good basis for an innovative agenda on oceans.

In addition to chairing the informal contact groups on marine living resources and marine pollution, Canada also participated in the groups dealing with integrated coastal zone management (redrafted by Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela), institutions (redrafted by the Netherlands), and critical uncertainties and climate change (redrafted by Barbados and the US). Canada monitored, but did not participate in, the highly polarized meetings on Antarctica and whaling.

### Marine Living Resources

The section on marine living resources is slightly different from other Agenda 21 papers (but similar to the forests paper) in that it incorporates both concrete recommendations (regulations, sustainable fisheries methods, better information collection and sharing, etc.) and fundamental principles for conservation and management (based on the Santiago/New York paper (L.16), which is supported by some 16 countries). Although the text at present does not enjoy support from the EC and Japan, numerous delegations have praised the marine living resources section of L.18 for its "forward-looking strategy" to deal with specific problems which have arisen in the last decade and to implement effectively the provisions of the UNCLOS.

The paper proposed by several Latin American states and others (L.24) makes no