

One of the groups favoured by the new proposed legislation, is the "artisanal fishermen" subsector, which will have exclusive fishing rights within 5 miles offshore. The artisanal fishermen supply most of the fresh fish and seafood in general available for human consumption in the country. That exclusivity would give them stability and security.

At present the Chilean fishing activity is located exclusively in coastal waters under the Government's jurisdiction (200 miles Economic Zone). Fish, along with fruit and forestry exports constitute the main non-mineral export sector. The fishing activity produced almost 1 billion dollars in exports (USD \$917 millions) in 1990, representing 11 % of the total exported from the country.

The New Act proposes to establish two regimes of access to the resources:

a) General Access. This would apply when the fishery is under developed. It would only be required a 'non-transferable permit' issued by the Authority;

b) Restricted Access. This system would apply to those fisheries which have reached the "maximun sustainable yield", and there are risks of overexploitation. There would be different variables depending on each particular fishery.

Before going further, it is necessary and convenient to analyze the impact of the new Act, if enacted.

The discussions have been centered to the three systems for controlling the access to the resources: "global quotas", "fishing effort", and "individual quotas". There have been important discussions around these topics.