

### OCEANS

The Oceans chapter of Agenda 21 is one of the most complex and negotiated texts of the UNCED preparatory process. Unlike many other chapters, it began to take shape relatively early, with intense negotiations commencing at PrepCom III and continuing right up to the last day of PrepCom IV. Although very much a "negotiated text," the Oceans chapter drew on the intelligent and energetic efforts of the Working Party (a group of experts assembled by the UNCED Secretariat), various UN agencies (including UNEP, IMO, UNESCO, and the recently-disbanded UN Office of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea), and UNCED's own talented staff (notably Alicia Barcenas).

Canada's objectives were largely achieved. The delegation actively participated in formal and informal negotiations shaping all seven sections of the chapter. Some sections are going to UNCED with square brackets: a) those pertaining to means of implementation (financial resources and technology) -- as with all chapters of Agenda 21 -- which will be addressed once there is agreement on these key cross-sectoral issues; and b) those pertaining to an issue of fundamental Canadian interest -- the paragraphs in the high seas and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) sections dealing with straddling stocks. Also bracketed at New Zealand's request is language pertaining to highly migratory species, and, at the European Community's request, language on access to surplus stocks.

### FRESHWATER

PrepCom IV agreed a lengthy and comprehensive text with square brackets on the sections dealing with financial and technology resources, pending decisions on these core issues in the wider UNCED debate; and on the Introduction and General Objectives sections, which await a decision in Rio whether these and other similar paragraphs in other sectoral chapters will be retained or deleted.

Canada's objectives were largely achieved. Although the Dublin Guiding Principles have not been incorporated verbatim, they are well reflected in the Agenda 21 text together with the approaches defined in the Dublin Conference report. No new institutional arrangements were recommended; what must now be determined is how the overall UNCED follow-up mechanism can best take up the need to see that the actions outlined in Agenda 21 are implemented.