

Additional regulations govern the operation of ports and navigable waters.

There are also a number of inter-governmental agreements in force within Mexico. One between the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología (Sedue)*, the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology and *Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex)*, the national oil company, governs pollution control in the petroleum industry. A second agreement between *Sedue* and the *Secretaría de Marina Armada de México (SMAM)*, the Mexican Navy, provides for measures to prevent and control the contamination of the marine environment and conduct remediation operations.

Mexico is a signatory to more than a dozen international treaties and agreements affecting the oceans. Most observers do not consider these to have a significant market impact, because they tend to specify principles rather than actions.

UNITED NATIONS EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AGREEMENT

Since 1978, limits to territorial claims over the ocean have been recognized by all United Nations member countries. The final stage of this process took place on 10 December 1982, with the formal signing of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III). Part V of this agreement defines an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as extending up to 200 nautical miles from the base lines of a coastal state's territorial sea.

In Mexico's case, this increased its ocean resources to about 3 million square kilometres, including all of the continental shelf. Since Mexico claims Guadalupe Island and the Revillagigedo Archipelago, its EEZ reaches more than 400 nautical miles from the mainland in some places.

Article 56 of UNCLOS III recognizes "sovereign rights" over the EEZ "for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the sea-bed ...and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone".

The rights to an EEZ are balanced by a number of duties set out in the agreement. For example, the coastal state must take steps to preserve living species and manage harvesting for "maximum sustainable yield" based on scientific evidence. The agreement assigns "jurisdiction" over the protection and preservation of the marine environment, to the coastal state. The state must also maintain charts and geographic data adequate to identify the limits of its EEZ.

These requirements, however, are not accompanied by any specific standards. Article 61 simply requires coastal states to cooperate with "competent international organizations" and "take into account" generally accepted international standards.