

Oceans to prepare a draft declaration, strategy and action plan for consideration at Prep Com IV.

The ACOPS Conference on Land-based Marine Pollution (July 3-5) made particular reference to the need for progress within UNCED. This would include the transfer of technology to developing countries and the integration of economic and financial measures in the legal instruments selected to address the problem. While some delegates focused on regional approaches, others emphasized the need to integrate them into a global framework of objectives and priorities. The concluding statement of the conference emphasizes the link between poverty and marine pollution (hence the need for transfers of financial resources and technology); the need for action on land-based sources, at the global, regional and national levels; and the importance of coastal zone management.

At the July Economic Summit in London, G-7 Leaders discussed ocean environmental issues including the conservation and protection of living marine resources. Prime Minister Mulroney noted the importance of oceans to Canada's economy and environment, and underlined the need for a comprehensive and global approach covering, inter alia, land-based sources of marine pollution, coastal zone management, and the conservation and protection of living marine resources. In the final communique, based on our Prime Minister's intervention, Leaders stated that they "seek to promote, in the context of UNCED, a comprehensive approach to oceans, including regional seas. The environmental and economic importance of oceans and seas means that they must be protected and sustainably managed." They also stated that "living marine resources are threatened by over-fishing and other harmful practices and should be protected by the implementation of measures in accordance with international law. We urge control of marine pollution and compliance with the regimes established by regional fisheries organisations through effective monitoring and enforcement measures."

The issue in particular of fishing on the high seas of stocks that straddle the 200-mile-limit is of fundamental importance to Canada. At the recent meeting in New York of legal experts on high seas fisheries, the necessity to conserve these resources and to cooperate within more effective regional fisheries organizations was recognized. Suggested guidelines were discussed which identify what the responsibilities of fisheries organizations should be. At the meeting a draft proposal by experts from Canada and seven other countries was tabled for further consideration. It outlines specific principles and measures for an effective regime for conservation and management of living resources of the high seas based on the Law of the Sea Convention.

In this regard, key elements include: