

"The marine environment and all the living organisms which it supports are of vital importance to humanity, and all people have an interest in assuring that this environment is so managed that its quality and resources are not impaired. This applies especially to coastal nations which have a particular interest in the management of coastal area resources."

In order to develop further this functional approach to fisheries management, Canada has suggested, by way of illustration, a differentiation between various ecological groupings of species in order to identify the management regimes most appropriate to each. In accordance with this approach, marine living resources have been grouped into four categories: sedentary species, coastal species, anadromous species and wide-ranging species. The Canadian position towards each of these species is as follows:

- (1) Coastal states should maintain their exclusive sovereign rights over sedentary species as they are now recognized under the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf: these would include organisms, like crabs, which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the seabed, or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil.
- (2) Coastal states should have the exclusive right to manage and conserve coastal species, i.e. those species which are free-swimming and generally found over the continental shelf or in similar nutrient-rich areas, and should acquire preferential rights over their harvest, to the limit of their capacity.
- (3) Coastal states should have exclusive rights for the management and harvesting of anadromous species, such as salmon, throughout their migratory range, recognizing only the right of other states to fish for these species when such fish are found in their own waters, subject to agreement with the state of origin; this would of course imply a ban on high seas fishing for anadromous species and special bilateral arrangements, as just mentioned, when these species are harvested by states other than the state of origin.