

and effective method of managing the world's fisheries. The coastal state, with its physical proximity to the resources and its preeminent interest in their well-being, is likely to do the best job of managing them. Such management, however, must be subject to the obligation to ensure optimum utilization for humanity of the world's scarce food resources. In this light, the coastal state's management authority would be based on internationally agreed principles which would recognize the coastal state's legitimate requirements, the desirability of making the fullest use of the resources as a whole, and the need to allow foreign states access to fish stocks surplus to the coastal state's requirements. Regional fisheries commissions could continue to play an active role in the implementation of such regimes.

The 200-mile economic zone advocated by many coastal states wherein the coastal states would have exclusive sovereign rights in both the management and harvesting of all fisheries would in part meet Canada's needs. But a single all-embracing limit such as this does overlook the fact that the continental margins of a few coastal states, like Canada's, extend beyond 200 miles; in Canada's case, more than 400 miles and 600 miles in places off the Atlantic Coast. Therefore, since many species range over the entire continental margin and must be managed consistently and as a whole, Canada is seeking to ensure that these biological facts and the special needs of the coastal state are given adequate recognition even beyond 200 miles where necessary.

Current trends towards an enlarged coastal state jurisdiction over fisheries favour Canada's position. Opposition to these trends remains important, however. Many long-distance fishing nations continue to insist on their long-standing freedom from anything but international controls. These, however, are often non-existent, inadequate, or too late in their application, and in any case can be vetoed by any state in respect of its own fleet.

