

exploitation or wiped out by means of pollution of the sea, it is vitally necessary to apply to the exploitation of these resources some of the techniques which have been developed for offshore mineral resources. The action now being taken by Canada is a step in this direction, a step toward a more logical and systematic approach to the management of living marine resources.

"Exclusive rights to harvest may be necessary, but they are not an end in themselves. The end we have in mind is conservation and rational management, and for this purpose we require jurisdiction. That jurisdiction, however, does not rule out the possibility of sharing fisheries-exploitation with other countries; it does, however, allow us to set rules for that exploitation, to impose licensing requirements if necessary and thus to share the financial burden of conservation as well as the financial rewards of exploitation."

The fisheries closing-lines being promulgated by the Government represent a very important step forward in the conservation and protection of Canada's coastal fisheries. It must be recognized, however, that there is also a need for international as well as national action if we are to preserve the marine environment and its living resources for future generations. For this reason, the Government has been consulting with other interested countries for more than two years with respect to the convening of a Law of the Sea conference which would deal effectively with these problems.

The possibility of convening such a conference has been under discussion in the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the Assembly has now resolved that a conference should be held in 1973. It is Canada's hope that there will emerge from that conference a rational system of fisheries conservation, management and exploitation in the common interest of all countries, including a clear recognition of the special rights and responsibilities of coastal states with respect to the living resources of the sea, and particularly the protection of the Atlantic and Pacific salmon stocks, which are being maintained at considerable cost by the efforts of coastal states such as Canada and the U.S.A.

In addition, it is Canada's view that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be convened in Stockholm in June of 1972 will offer an important, and, indeed, crucial opportunity for the international community to adopt a bold and constructive approach to the preservation of the marine environment. The living resources of the sea are the greatest wealth of the sea, and it is those resources, of course, which are most directly threatened by marine pollution. The Stockholm conference, we hope, will include among its achievements the laying of a foundation for a global attack on marine pollution, including the work on this problem which we hope will be undertaken at the proposed conference on the Law of the Sea.

Having established the new fishing-zones, the Government intends to conclude negotiations for the phasing-out of the fishing activities of certain countries which have traditionally fished in the areas concerned -- namely, Britain, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. Canada has recently entered into an agreement on reciprocal fishing privileges with the U.S.A. and the activities of United States fishermen in the areas concerned will not be affected by the promulgation of our fisheries closing-lines. There