

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Report on the Sixth and Final Session of the UN Conference
on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

by

Delegate of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands
and Greenland)

At the 6th and final session of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Convention was adopted without a vote. It will now be presented to the United Nations 50th General Assembly together with the Chairman's report and will be open for signature from the first week of December this year. The Convention will come into force, when 30 nations have ratified it.

The Convention is meant to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the regulation of fisheries of the straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, i.e. fish stocks that do not reside or remain within any national territory. One of the aims of the Convention is thus to restrict unregulated fisheries from non-Contracting Parties, that is vessels operating under flag of convenience.

The purpose of the Convention, which is derived from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (UNCED), is to ensure a coherent and sustainable management of the straddling and migratory stocks in order to avoid overfishing and depletion.

The administration as such (determination of quotas etc.) and the control and inspection in this connection must take place within the framework of the relevant regional organizations. If in any case such an organization does not exist, an organization should be established.

The Convention imposes greater obligations on the flag States to control the activities of their own vessels in international waters. The stipulations on control also comprehend vessels which are not members of a regional fisheries organization, but parties to the United Nations Convention.

The Convention allows for others than the flag State to control and enforce the regulations for fisheries in international waters in that it stipulates a general access to board and inspect fishing vessels in the open sea for the states participating in regional organizations. The Convention also encourages a cooperation between the flag State and the inspecting party on subsequent enforcement acts, concerning the investigation of any offenses.