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**The Crisis in Ocean Governance:
Conceptual Confusion, Economic Nonsense, Political Incoherence**

ABSTRACT

Each passing month brings renewed clamor to rescue ocean policy (and ocean governance) from flawed policies that have produced serious overexploitation. The problems in ocean management have emerged over the time period that coincides with the extension of exclusive economic zones (EEZs) throughout the world. The political and economic pressure to exploit these fishery resources was apparently irresistible. My comments focus on the reasons why so many nations have shown themselves unable to manage many fish stocks in a sustainable manner. The reasons can be found in: (1) conceptual confusion; (2) flawed advice from economists; and (3) political incoherence.

BIOGRAPHY

Daniel W. Bromley is Anderson-Bascom Professor of applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has published extensively on: (1) the institutional foundations of the economy; (2) legal and philosophical dimensions of property rights; (3) economics of natural resources and the environment; and (4) economic development. He has been editor of the journal *Land Economics* since 1974. He is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and is listed in *Who's Who in Economics*. He served as Chair of the U. S. Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas between 2003-2006.

He has written and edited eleven books, including *Economic Interests and Institutions: The Conceptual Foundations of Public Policy*; *Environment and Economy: Property Rights and Public Policy*; *Making the Commons Work*; *The Handbook of Environmental Economics*; and *Sustaining Development: Environmental Resources in Developing Countries*.

His most recent book is *Sufficient Reason: Volitional Pragmatism and the Meaning of Economic Institutions*, published in 2006 by Princeton University Press.