

## Integrated Management

Integrated management is an ecosystem-based approach that aims to ensure the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources. To this end, the Oceans Act provides basic authorities for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas; the establishment and enforcement of marine ecosystem health and marine environmental quality guidelines, criteria, and standards; and the establishment of integrated management plans for activities in or affecting Canada's oceans.

*Co-management is one tool offering the opportunity to harness the talents and experience of stakeholders in the search for ocean management solutions. It has been used successfully in a number of Canadian contexts including, among others, the Fraser River basin in British Columbia and the Bay of Fundy herring fishery on the east coast. In 1988, a co-management guide was developed based on the work of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.*

## National System of Marine Protected Areas

Canada's marine ecosystems are vast and diverse, supporting many different activities. Protected areas, then, must satisfy a range of needs in a variety of jurisdictional settings.

The Oceans Act sets out the obligation of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to develop a national strategy for oceans management. This strategy will include coordinating an overall federal Marine Protected Areas Program that will be administered and implemented by three federal departments or agencies with mandated responsibilities to establish and create protected areas — Parks Canada, Environment Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

*Canada is embracing the challenge of moving from theory to practice in implementing integrated ocean management. In December 1998, Canada announced the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management pilot project.*

To ensure that Marine Protected Areas are a part of a comprehensive initiative to protect the health and function of marine ecosystems, they are being developed and established within a context of integrated management planning. Such planning considers the protection of each area in light of both environmental and socio-economic benefits.

A coordinated approach, as directed in the Oceans Act, will ensure that the federal government will work together with provincial and territorial governments, as well as with Aboriginal groups and individual communities, to advance marine conservation in an efficient and effective manner.

Environment Canada protects unique, critical, and productive habitats or ecosystems for wildlife in Canada's major marine ecozones and nearshore areas through the establishment of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Areas, and Marine Wildlife Areas. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, created under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, protect coastal and marine habitats that are heavily used by birds for breeding, feeding, migration, and overwintering.