

approach to oceans activities management will continue to be a significant challenge for all participants in the oceans sector.

The NPA process is under way and is a significant undertaking for the federal government, the coastal provinces/territories, and all interested parties. It will be a major factor in protecting the marine environment. Continued progress in protecting the marine environment from ship sources of pollution through prevention and response programs, as well as through ensuring safe passage for ships through Canadian waters, is an important component in preventing marine pollution.

Fisheries management issues will continue to present challenges. Through measures such as the Fishery of the Future and amendments to the Fisheries Act, resource users and stakeholders will be more involved in decision making and the conservation of the fisheries resource. The integrated approach to fisheries management will be a key component of this more collaborative approach.

Improving our knowledge of the oceans environment is an ongoing challenge. For example, attaining sustainable fisheries requires a much broader approach and understanding, one that includes ecosystem considerations, social and economic considerations, and the impacts of human activities on aquatic ecosystems. The effects of pollution on the oceans environment also needs further examination.

Internationally, Canada will continue to promote the conservation and sustainability of fish stocks on the high seas, and will press the international community to develop and ratify agreements to ensure the sustainability of these stocks.