

Canada successfully negotiated an article in the Convention which recognizes the right of a state to adopt special provisions for the protection of the marine environment in ice covered waters, providing international acceptance of Canada's Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act.

The articles of the Convention on marine scientific research protect Canada's resource and security interests by recognizing the right of a coastal state to control scientific research in waters within its jurisdiction, without unduly hampering the conduct of marine research around the world.

CONTINENTAL SHELF

The articles of the Convention on the continental shelf are among the most important to Canada from the economic point of view. Canada's continental shelf is the second largest in the world comprising 6.5 million square miles and including such important offshore fields as Hibernia. The definition of the continental shelf in the Convention on the Law of the Sea assures Canada control of the resources of the greatest part of its continental margin (extending beyond the shelf proper to include the continental slope and at least part of the rise). The quid pro quo for sovereign rights over the resources of such an extensive area is a provision in the Convention whereby "broad shelf" states would make certain contributions to the International Seabed Authority on the production from the continental shelf beyond 200 miles. These payments do not begin until after five years of production and start during the sixth year as 1% of the value of production rising by 1% per year until the twelfth year and remaining at 7% thereafter.

For coastal states without an extensive continental shelf, the Convention recognizes that coastal states have control over the seabed resources out to 200 miles. This is important for Canada on the west coast where the continental shelf is quite narrow.

DEEP SEABED MINING

The Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes an international regime for the mining of the seabed beyond the jurisdiction of the coastal states. The regime is based on the principal that the resources of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction, called "the Area", are the "common heritage of mankind". These resources are largely manganese nodules, rich