

CANADA/USA COOPERATION ON VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE
JUAN DE FUCA AREA

18. Canada has expressed strong concern over the prospect of increased tanker traffic carrying Alaskan oil in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a concern which has been conveyed to the USA authorities in a number of ways, including a resolution passed unanimously by the House of Commons on May 15, 1972.

19. Canada is not, however, in a position to take unilateral action to prevent such traffic since tankers could, if necessary, proceed from Alaska to USA ports through the Strait of Juan de Fuca without entering Canadian waters. The Canadian authorities accordingly initiated discussions with the USA authorities, including exchanges of information on possible alternative ports, with a view to ensuring that all possible measures are taken to enhance safety of navigation and to minimize environmental risks. The discussions have included:

- A Canada/USA agreement on an oil spill clean-up contingency plan for the Juan de Fuca area was concluded in 1975 under the umbrella agreement of June 19, 1974 (C.T.S. 1974, No. 22).
- A Canada/USA agreement on cooperative scientific research programs was concluded in 1975 with a view to better understanding of environmental conditions in the area.
- Liability and compensation arrangements (see separate paper).
- A vessel traffic management system in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

20. A voluntary vessel traffic management system was instituted in the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in August 1974 as part of a series of coordinated and parallel