

Aquaculture

Developing aquaculture in Canada is a priority of the federal government as there is considerable potential for development in the Canadian aquaculture industry. This sector could create jobs, spur economic growth, and encourage coastal community development. At present, five species (salmon, trout, mussels, oysters, and Manila clams) have made the transition from the laboratory to commercial production. Research is continuing on new species development and on the mitigation of potential and known environmental effects.

THE OCEANS: A BROADER LOOK

Shipping

Canada advocates international harmonization of its shipping policy and its marine safety and environmental policies with international maritime law. As a maritime nation that developed significant technologies to enhance ship safety while navigating, such as the Electronic Navigation Charts and Display Systems, Canada is a major supporter of the work of the International Maritime Organization and other intergovernmental agencies.

The Canada Shipping Act is the principal statute governing commercial shipping in Canada. It deals with activities of foreign ships in Canadian waters and Canadian ships in all waters. It covers issues such as ship registration, certification of masters and crew, ship safety, wrecks, salvage and casualty investigations, aids to navigation, collisions and liability, ship-source pollution, and civil liability and compensation for pollution. The Canada Shipping Act is currently being overhauled, and the end product will be a statute that is updated, streamlined, and economically beneficial to the Canadian shipping industry.

The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act does not deal solely with shipping, but is a coordinated piece of legislation dealing also with offshore and land pollution arising in the Canadian Arctic.

With respect to trade, for the most part, Canada depends on foreign vessels for the international transportation of its goods. Domestic marine trade and a large portion of Canada/United States marine transborder trade is moved in Canadian-registered ships. Much of the shipping activity to Canadian ports involves contiguous waterways shared with the United States. Thus, in addition to actively contributing to and supporting the approach taken by the international marine community, Canada