

"We recognize the important role regional cooperation has played in promoting stability and economic growth in the South Pacific", Mr. Clark said. "Accordingly, Canada will expand cooperation with the countries of the South Pacific in fisheries development and ocean resources management. Beneficiaries will be regional organizations such as the Forum Fisheries Agency, the University of the South Pacific, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation and the Committee for Coordination of Offshore Prospecting in the South Pacific," he explained.

"The essential objective of this initiative is to strengthen the independent capabilities of all nations in the South Pacific to develop, manage and exploit their ocean resources in a manner which will maximize economic benefits now and in the future", the Minister concluded.