

International law is not yet agreed regarding national jurisdiction over the exploitation of minerals on the sea bed beyond the 370 km Exclusive Economic Zone. Some coastal states wish to have rights out to the edge of the continental shelf, or to the 210 metre depth contour. The Grand Banks off Newfoundland extend well beyond the Canadian EEZ. In addition to their fishing value, which is of major international importance, they may also offer the opportunity for extraction of oil or solid minerals from the seabed.

Most of the very large expanses of water, land and ice under Canadian functional jurisdiction are not under surveillance today. Surveillance is a necessary first step in prevention of law breaking, but must be followed up by interception and arrest. Identification and tracking of a suspected fish poacher, polluter or smuggler could be followed by subsequent inspection, and if necessary arrest, either at sea or after landing, a function for the civil authorities rather than the armed forces. Regulations could be instituted regarding large visible markings to be placed on ships in a manner making them identifiable to an airborne electro-optical sensor.

Aircraft play a significant transportation role for the narcotics trade, and as the United States becomes more successful in the prevention of imports from the south, one can anticipate an increase in efforts to penetrate Canada. The means to detect illegal air entry are not unlike those needed for military air defence, although for Canada it will be the southern rather than the northern approaches which need to be surveyed. The intruders will include small, slow aircraft, and identification will be more difficult. However, the objective will be arrest at the landing field rather than destruction in the air.