

for the Greenland halibut stock. All NAFO parties subsequently endorsed the Canada/European Union measures and became subject to this regime starting in January 1996.

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Canada played a key role in the success of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The agreement concluded at the conference gives the international community the means to end overfishing of straddling and highly migratory stocks on the high seas. This will close a serious gap in the international legal regime for the conservation of these stocks. Canada has signed the agreement and will ratify it shortly. It has encouraged other states to do the same.

Other International Fisheries Activities

Canada participates in all relevant international fisheries forums, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Canada has been supportive of FAO's responsible fishing initiatives, including the operations and guidelines in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

Canada was the first party to the FAO International Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures for Fishing Vessels on the High Seas. The federal government passed regulations requiring domestic vessels to obtain a high-seas fishing licence from Canada when fishing outside of Canadian waters. This provision was introduced to ensure that these vessels fish consistently with international conservation regimes.

Canada is involved in other organizations. As a party to the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission, Canada is committed to the elimination of high-seas fisheries for Pacific salmon stocks.

Development Initiatives

Fisheries are an important resource for developing countries. The Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade all provide assistance to partner countries and regional organizations in oceans management, development, and research. This assistance draws on Canadian institutional experience, capacity, and expertise.

Canada's official development assistance programs in fisheries have concentrated on fisheries development and management on a sustainable basis. Canada has also assisted developing countries with the management of Exclusive Economic Zones and in addressing issues arising from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Agenda 21.

The Canadian International Development Agency has encouraged and fostered regional approaches for Exclusive Economic Zone and fisheries management in developing countries. In the Asia-Pacific region, efforts have focused on assisting regional organizations to resolve jurisdictional issues, examining measures to combat degradation of the marine environment, and developing resource management policies.

The International Development Research Centre has played a formative role in the establishment of the Strategy for International Fisheries Research (SIFR). SIFR's objective is to improve coordination among donor agencies in their support for fisheries research and development.