

Fisheries. States around the world now need to ratify and fully implement these tools, both within their jurisdictions and within regional fisheries organizations.

Canada has introduced legislation before the Canadian Parliament to enable the ratification of UNFA and has developed its own Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations, based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

### **Monitoring and Surveillance Programs**

Highly trained fishery officers, at-sea fisheries observers, patrol vessels, and aerial surveillance are all part of Canada's multifaceted efforts to conserve and protect Canada's marine resources.

Monitoring and surveillance programs are directed at ensuring compliance with Canadian fisheries legislation and regulations, protecting habitat, monitoring fishing activities, and providing scientific data and management information for direct input into the management of Canada's fisheries and the conservation of fisheries resources for Canada.

### **Aboriginal Fisheries**

The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, whereby the federal government enters into agreements with Aboriginal organizations to involve Aboriginal peoples in the sustainable management of the fisheries, is one of the many domestic policy developments that has been undertaken in Canada.

### **Traditional Knowledge**

There is a need for better information about stocks and fishing efforts on stocks. Better information reduces the uncertainty and makes the management of marine resources more accurate. For example, despite the remarkable progress made this century in understanding the dynamics of marine stocks and ecosystems, uncertainty about their current and future condition is still a major constraint to ensuring their long-term sustainability. Information can come from many sources: scientific data collection, anecdotal information, or traditional and local knowledge. Canada must continue to improve its scientific knowledge of oceans resources, including the dynamics of fished stocks and the effects of pollution on oceans ecosystems. Improved access to and uses of traditional and local knowledge are essential for resource conservation.