

## Challenges and Next Steps

The shift to ecosystem management is an evolving process. It requires continued work to develop oceans policies that incorporate the principles of sustainable development and integrated management. This is key to improving the management of Canada's oceans and ocean resources.

The changing nature of commercial fisheries and ocean-related industries makes strong ties with stakeholders imperative. As oceans management approaches continue to move toward an ecological and sustainable approach, industry must be at the forefront of necessary adjustments. Canada will continue to pursue measures that enhance these relationships.

Internationally, Canada is responding to the critical need to protect the marine environment from damaging land- and sea-based activities and is also promoting the conservation and sustainability of fish stocks on the high seas. Canada will continue to play a lead role and will press the international community to develop and ratify agreements that ensure the sustainability of these stocks.

Science and the exchange of information on the oceans and its living resources must be a priority. International cooperation and research must continue to understand oceans better and to secure their future sustainability.