

the National Programme of Action (NPA) that Canada has committed to develop by 1998, the International Year of the Oceans.

Canada's NPA will be developed and implemented as a partnership between federal and provincial/territorial governments in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, including environmental groups, Aboriginal organizations, industry, academia, and private sector organizations. It will focus on regional implementation in the Atlantic Ocean, the St. Lawrence River/Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Pacific and Arctic Oceans under the overall umbrella of the NPA. Canada is also actively collaborating with partner nations to develop an Arctic Regional Program of Action under the auspices of the AEPS and the Arctic Council.

Under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, two subregional coastal areas have been selected for pilot projects to implement the GPA: the Southern California Bight and the Gulf of Maine.

Canada has been very active in addressing ship-source pollution. In 1994, Canada acceded to the International Convention on Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, which is aimed at preventing oil pollution. As a result, Canada is revising its joint marine contingency plan with the United States for responding to spills in shared boundary waters. Canada is also playing a role in the revision of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention).

Canadian Environmental Protection Act

Amendments to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, now before Canada's federal parliament, incorporate a new focus on land-based sources of marine pollution. This new provision would support the NPA in preventing and reducing marine pollution from land-based sources.