

of the problems created by modern technology, to ensure the preservation of the marine environment.

3. Canada, from the outset of the Law of the Sea Conference, has taken the initiative in pressing for the incorporation in a law of the sea convention of rules, global in scope, which would lay down basic rights and duties of all states for the protection of the marine environment. Such rules would include an obligation, heretofore uncodified, of the basic obligation of all states to protect and preserve the marine environment, the zonal approach to the prevention and control of vessel-source pollution and, most importantly, a functional sharing of jurisdiction among flag, coastal and port states in place of the traditional rule of exclusive flag state sovereignty beyond the territorial sea. The major maritime powers have strongly resisted any expanded role for coastal states in the enforcement of anti-pollution regulations on the grounds that any limitation of flag state jurisdiction over vessels of their registry in areas beyond the territorial seas of other states will lead to an erosion of high seas navigational rights. Conversely, however, coastal states, including Canada, have pointed out the inadequacy of the existing international legal rules in light of the clear evidence provided by the proliferation of oil spill incidents in recent years that flag state responsibilities have not kept pace with the doctrine of absolute flag state jurisdiction. Since coastal states invariably suffered the consequences of major oil spills and bore the main burden of clean-up operations, we considered it logical that they should have at least an equal part to play in