

- Canada was a key sponsor of a UN resolution to reduce the harmful practice of driftnet fishing and remains committed to implementing a moratorium on all large-scale ocean driftnet fishing. Other multilateral agreements through which Canada helps sustain ocean fisheries include the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific; the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean; the Convention on the Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries; and the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.
- At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Canada is committed to pursuing four specific objectives to ensure fisheries habitat protection and sustainability:
 - developing an international sustainable fisheries strategy;
 - building an international framework for controlling land-based sources of ocean pollution;
 - strengthening provisions of the London Dumping Convention to combat ocean dumping; and
 - establishing a global ocean observing system.
- Pollution of the oceans results partly from dumping of wastes at sea. The London Dumping Convention was established in the mid-1970s to protect the marine environment from this source of pollution. Canada has long been a supporter of this international agreement and recently backed a resolution to ban the ocean disposal of industrial wastes by 1995.
- The dumping of wastes at sea is only part of the problem. Over 80 per cent of marine pollution comes from land-based sources. Canada is leading efforts to address land-based sources of marine pollution. At the 1990 Houston Economic Summit, a Canadian-sponsored initiative was adopted to develop a comprehensive international strategy. This was followed by a meeting in Halifax in May 1991, at which experts from around the world gathered to help prepare a framework for reducing pollution from land-based sources.
- To set a good international example and ensure protection of our own coastal waters, the federal government is implementing a five-year Ocean Dumping Plan. This includes stronger regulations prohibiting ocean disposal of industrial wastes and a national research and information program to help reduce the discharge of plastics and other debris into the marine environment.