

living in the Arctic, including future generations. The AEPS also includes three international Indigenous peoples' organizations. It has five working groups, including ones on the protection of the Arctic marine environment and on emergency, prevention, preparedness, and response.

In September 1996, the eight Arctic countries signed a declaration establishing the Arctic Council. The council, to be chaired by Canada for the first term, will be the intergovernmental forum for regional issues for the eight countries. Canada will engage residents of the Arctic, particularly Indigenous people, to identify goals and priorities for a sustainable development program for the Arctic.

Canada has just completed the Arctic Environmental Sailing Directions project to provide environmental sensitivity maps for marine navigators travelling in the Canadian Arctic through the Northwest Passage. These maps highlight specific areas where high concentrations of various Arctic species are most likely to be found at different times of the navigation season. They will assist ships masters and pilots to choose the routes that will minimize negative impacts on the Arctic ecosystem.

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

In November 1995, Canada, together with 109 other nations, adopted the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in Washington. Since that time, Canada has been working to implement the GPA both domestically and abroad.

To coincide with Oceans Day 1996 (June 8), the federal ministers of Fisheries and Oceans and the Environment released a discussion paper called "Developing Canada's National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities". This will help lead to