

organizations to integrate Aboriginal people into the sustainable management of the fishery, provide economic benefits, and establish and provide allocations of fish.

Provincial and territorial governments are also improving policies to strengthen fisheries management. The British Columbia government has devised a Coastal Resource Strategy framework to sustain its coastal resource base. It is incorporating a best practices approach to resource use and management. The British Columbia government has also initiated the B.C. Salmon Habitat Conservation Program. It has a strong focus on critical salmon habitats in urban areas. It involves community groups and local governments concerned with the sustainability of salmon.

Addressing fishing practices and skills has become another emphasis in Canada's domestic efforts to conserve fisheries. One of the most significant of these activities has been the Review of Groundfish Gear and Harvesting Technology. Launched in December 1992, it establishes linkages between groundfish gear and sustainable development for the future. It has the potential for a major impact on the industry.

The Canadian Program for Responsible Fishing is another important mechanism under way to achieve a sustainable fishery. Industry, with the federal government, has undertaken work to address issues such as sustainable fishing, and encourage the development of national and international codes of conduct for responsible fishing.

Fisheries Conservation in the Northwest Atlantic

Canada has been a leader in developing and promoting efforts to conserve and protect fisheries on the high seas. This has led to a number of domestic and international initiatives.

In the northwest Atlantic, groundfish stocks have been severely overfished. Four of six straddling groundfish stocks managed by quota under the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) are currently under moratoria. Canada has taken a strong international position that all moratoria and quotas be respected to allow stocks to rebuild.

In 1994, the federal government amended the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act authorizing Canada to take enforcement measures to protect and conserve straddling stocks in areas regulated by NAFO. The goal was to ensure sustainable management of these high-seas fisheries pending the implementation of permanent international measures.

In March 1995, Canada and the European Union engaged in a dispute over turbot (Greenland halibut) fishing and other conservation issues in the northwest Atlantic. The dispute was resolved in April 1995 with an agreement that enhanced conservation and enforcement measures for straddling stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). This included 100 percent observer coverage on all Canadian and European Union vessels fishing in the NRA, other improved control measures, and a new sharing arrangement