

- Canada's National Wildlife Policy, adopted by the Wildlife Ministers' Council of Canada in 1990, seeks to maintain and enhance the health and diversity of Canada's wildlife in fulfilment of our responsibility to the rest of the world and to future generations of Canadians.

SAFEGUARDING THE OCEANS

Oceans cover over 70 per cent of the planet's surface and play a critical role in maintaining its life support systems, in moderating climate and in sustaining life. The health of the oceans is particularly vital for Canada. We have the longest coastline of any country in the world, and the sea supports more than 140 000 Canadian jobs and \$8 billion-worth of economic activity every year.

According to the Brundtland Commission, the world's oceans are in trouble: "Huge, closed septic tanks, they receive wastes from cities, farms and industries via sewage outfalls, dumping from barges and ships, coastal run-off, river discharge, and even atmospheric transport." In addition to pollution, living resources from the sea are also under threat from over-



exploitation. Major fish stocks in the waters over continental shelves, which provide 95 per cent of the world's fish catch, are now at risk as a result of overfishing. This poses a grave threat to Canada's fishing industry and the thousands of people who depend on it for a livelihood.

Because the seas belong to everyone, no one country can solve these problems by itself. Reclaiming the health of our oceans requires an international effort.

- Canada is a strong supporter of multilateral efforts to stem overfishing. Since 1989, the federal government has worked hard to make members of the European Community aware of the serious, long-term consequences of overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area. Along with other NAFO countries, Canada has begun to control overfishing in the region.