

standards for marine environmental quality. The development of an oceans management strategy for Canada will be central to all of its activities.

Canada is proceeding with its National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. A document prepared by federal, provincial, and territorial agencies has been released for public consultation. After this phase, Canada's National Programme of Action will be published.

Canada will also continue to promote the conservation and sustainable use of its fish stocks. Internationally, this means implementing international legal instruments, an important one being the United Nations Fisheries Agreement.

Improving our knowledge and understanding of the oceans environment and its impacts — ecosystems impacts as well as human, social, and economic — will continue to be a challenge, but one that we are willing and eager to face.