

Eighty percent of marine pollution is land-based. Maritime transport and dumping-at-sea activities contribute 10 percent each. Recent legal and policy initiatives have improved the protection of Canadian marine environments and living resources. For example, the Government of New Brunswick is beginning a process that will see planning and cleanup activities for more than 200 watersheds throughout the province. This model is currently being used to establish an overall provincial network.

The federal government has taken legislative and policy steps to address marine pollution in the Fisheries Act, the Toxic Substances Management Policy, and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The federal government intends to amend CEPA to preserve the quality of coastal areas and to guide reduction of contamination from land-based sources of pollution. The proposed COA will strengthen protection of marine habitat.

A Memorandum of Understanding for Sustainable Development in the Natural Resource Sectors was signed by all relevant federal government departments. Under it, working groups are addressing topics such as climate change, coastal zone management, and metals in the environment, thus linking several of the critical factors affecting oceans today.

Canada recognizes the value of international action to protect marine environments, safeguard the use of the world's oceans, and establish global approaches to coastal zone management. It has acted on its international commitments and agreements, working through bodies such as the International Maritime Organization.

In 1994, Canada acceded to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation 1990, which is aimed at pollution of the sea by oil. As a result, Canada is revising its joint marine contingency plan with the United States for responding to spills in shared boundary waters. As well, ships and oil-handling facilities now must have oil pollution emergency plans.

Canada is also playing an active role in the revision of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by the Dumping of Waste and other Matter (the London Convention 1972). This is a major international instrument that regulates disposal at sea and promotes the control of all sources of marine pollution.

Canada supports the international Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78). The federal government established a coordinated national program of aerial surveillance that responds to the monitoring and reporting requirements of MARPOL.

Land-based sources of pollution are another focus of international efforts. In November 1995, Canada, along with the world community, endorsed the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. The

*In February 1995, Canada released its Aquaculture Development Strategy. The strategy meets the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea criteria. It will guide the sustainable management of Canada's aquatic resources for the production of high quality fish and seafood and will generate economic benefits for Canadians.*