

activities they had been carrying out previously in those areas where they had traditionally fished.

At the same time, however, the 1964 Act provided that the Governor-in-Council, and I quote Section 5, paragraph 1, of the Act: "may , by Order-in-Council, issue one or more lists of geographical co-ordinates of points from which baselines may be determined and may, as he deems necessary, amend such lists". The effect of that section was that the Government was empowered to establish along the coasts of Canada a system of straight baselines which would, in those areas where they were proclaimed, replace the sinuosities rule. This process would permit an extension of the internal waters of Canada and, by consequence, an extension of the territorial sea and fishing zones of Canada. The Canadian Government entered into a series of bilateral negotiations with those countries that would eventually be affected by any such establishment of baselines to ascertain whether or not the proposed straight baselines would be acceptable to them from the point of view of International Law. Although the drawing of straight baselines is a matter that can only be undertaken by Canada, such a system cannot be implemented unless it is carried out in accordance with the applicable rules of International Law. Thus if Canada could obtain the agreement of countries most directly affected, there could be no doubt that the application of the system of straight baselines would be legitimate in the eyes of the world community. If, on the other hand, such agreement could not be obtained, implementation by Canada could give rise to protests and possibly to international litigation.