

Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones

The most recent statute on this subject was the Act amending the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act, which received Royal Assent on June 26, 1970 and was promulgated on March 10, 1971. The Act extended Canada's territorial sea from 3 to 12 miles: the 12-mile territorial sea is now virtually a rule of law which has been established by state practice. The Act also laid the basis for the establishment of exclusive fishing zones in special bodies of water off Canada's East and West coasts, which were created within "fishery closing lines" established across the entrances to the bodies of water not enclosed within territorial sea baselines by the 1967 and 1969 Orders in Council, that is, the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound.

Bilateral and Multilateral Fisheries Questions

By the end of 1972 Canada concluded fisheries phasing out and/or regulation agreements with all countries fishing in Canadian waters, chiefly involving the east coast: Britain, Denmark, France, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the U.S.A. An agreement with the U.S.S.R. provided for regulation on the high seas off Canada's Pacific coast. During 1973 the agreements with the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. were extended in amended form. 1973 also saw the continuation of Canada-U.S.A. talks on salmon interceptions, designed to regulate the practice under which the fishermen of each country catch salmon bound for the rivers of the other, and involving the Fraser River Convention.