

principles of integrated resource management, sustainable development, and the precautionary principle.

The Oceans Act responds to many of the measures highlighted in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21. It confirms Canada's jurisdiction over its maritime zones (its Territorial Sea, the Contiguous Zone, and the Exclusive Economic Zone) and their resources consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the responsibility to manage them sustainably.

Key to the Oceans Act is the development of the Oceans Management Strategy (OMS). Based on the principles of sustainable development, the integrated management of activities in estuaries and coastal and marine waters, and the precautionary approach, the OMS will set the stage for many oceans activities. The first step in implementing the OMS will be the establishment of a national policy and framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in 1997. Addressing objectives within Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the OMS is based on the premise that oceans activities management must be based on a collaborative effort among stakeholders and governments. The OMS allows for the development of flexible strategies for oceans activities management that can be implemented regionally by stakeholders. The OMS calls for the creation of marine protected areas for the conservation of living marine resources and a system of marine environmental quality standards to judge performance in achieving effective ecosystem-based integrated management.

THE ARCTIC

Canada is one of eight Arctic states, together with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States. They share a wide range of interests that transcend state boundaries. Those interests are vital to the environmental integrity of the Arctic and the well-being of its peoples. The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), a cooperative program involving all eight nations in the region, was established to protect their common environment. It promotes the sustainable use of Arctic natural resources for the benefit of all people