

Since much of the coastline of Canada is deeply indented and cut into and in places has islands in its immediate vicinity such a provision could have application in Canada. In the Canadian view the employment of straight base-lines as outlined by the International Law Commission should be recognized universally as being a proper means of establishing the datum line for measuring the territorial sea or contiguous zone, in appropriate cases.

Continental Shelf

In recent years there has been a growing body of international practice which would recognize the right of the coastal state to explore and exploit the natural resources of the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf off its shores. This right is recognized in the Commission's recommendations. A continental shelf in the geographic sense is the submerged extension of a land mass or continent. A continental shelf is covered by relatively shallow waters: beyond it the real ocean depths are encountered. In some places this shelf extends out for many miles. Off the south-east coast of Newfoundland, for instance, it extends as far as 250 miles seaward and includes the Grand Banks. In other places there is virtually no continental shelf, and abyssal ocean depths are encountered very close to shore. This is the case off the west coast of Canada. The legal doctrine of the continental shelf applies only to the seabed

