

The Conference has already left an indelible imprint on state practice. For Canada, the Conference has provided multilateral endorsement of the 200-mile fishing zone and the 12-mile territorial sea and contributed to increased international acceptance of enhanced coastal state jurisdiction over pollution from ships, particularly in ice-covered Arctic waters. The resurgence of the fishing industry in the Maritime Provinces offers dramatic evidence of the positive impact which the Conference has had upon Canada.

Facing on three oceans with a vast continental shelf, a major fisheries industry, ecologically vulnerable frozen terrain and a dependence on international shipping to take its goods to the world, Canada has a crucial stake in the outcome of the Law of the Sea Conference. The Canadian Delegation will continue to work towards an early conclusion to the Law of the Sea Conference and the adoption of a new comprehensive treaty essential to Canada's vital interests, as well as to global peace and security.