

the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention provides in Article 234 that coastal states may adopt and enforce special regulations for the protection of ice-covered waters. This article, which had the broad support of the Law of the Sea Conference, gives validity in international law to the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. The Convention also provides, however, that Article 234 and other provisions relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment do not apply to any warship or any vessel owned or operated by a state. Notwithstanding this sovereign immunity, each state must ensure that its vessels act in a manner consistent with the Convention, so far as may be reasonable and practicable.