

reduction of greenhouse gases have been high on political agendas. The Kyoto Protocol is a good first step in the process of mitigating the effects of climate change.

In Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is funding an east coast ocean observation program, and plans are under way to prepare a similar program for the west coast. Canadian scientists have also been prominent in the planning and development of the Global Ocean Observation System and have recently established a committee to review the national contribution.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Canadian coastal communities have been keenly involved in the development, promotion, and implementation of sustainable oceans activities in Canada. Provinces and territories have developed their own marine strategies and, together with communities and local governments, have provided the impetus for the announcement of five pilot Marine Protected Areas in 1998. Conferences and symposia hosted by universities, nongovernmental organizations, and oceans-sector industry representatives have added to the momentum and helped to engage and educate the public of Canada on issues relating to oceans and seas.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Canada provides oceans management and development assistance through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre. Support in these fields has focused on three main areas: management of the uses of the ocean and seabed, protection of the marine environment, and fisheries management and development.

In the 1990s, CIDA's program emphasis shifted from the development of fisheries to a wider radius of activity encompassing seas and oceans management, marine environmental protection, and fisheries management. Between 1992/93 and 1994/95, CIDA's overall seas and oceans budgets totaled approximately \$57 million, divided roughly equally between "traditional" fisheries development projects and ocean and fisheries management.

In recognition of the need for a Canadian-based forum for the discussion and debate of coastal and ocean management issues, both domestic and global, a coalition of government, academic, private-sector, nongovernmental organization, and community interests formed the Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA) in 1993. The CZCA is a national nongovernmental organization that has taken on the role of convening biennial Coastal Zone Canada conferences. The fourth in the series of conferences will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick, in September 2000.

Since 1988, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has been successful in encouraging the creation of independent Harbour Authorities, which have been given responsibility for managing certain Small Craft Harbours fishing harbour facilities. These local Harbour Authorities, which represent fishers and other users, have proven to be highly effective at managing Small Craft Harbour facilities, providing user services, and reducing the cost of harbour operations and maintenance.