

for the Great Lakes. The field work was conducted between April 1, 1972 and March 31, 1973. During 1974, data were put in archive form and a preliminary report was prepared. More detailed reports will be published during the next two years.

In the area of environmental concerns but still within the aquatic environment, Canada has continued to play an active role in the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. In particular it has joined the newly created Marine Environment Protection Committee. In October 1973, IMCO sponsored an international conference on marine pollution which drafted an international agreement regulating the intentional and negligent discharges of oil and other harmful substances by ships and other equipment operating in the marine environment. This convention is now open for signature. The International Convention on Dumping of Wastes at Sea, formulated in accordance with a recommendation of the Stockholm UN Conference and concluded and opened for signature on December 29, 1972, has been signed by Canada and work is now proceeding on its ratification.

Because of Canada's extensive coastline and continental shelf, it has been deeply involved in the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The procedural session opened in New York in December 1973 and the substantive session took place in July and August 1974, in Caracas, Venezuela. Among the issues dealt with at the Conference and in the Conference in Geneva in March 1975 were sovereign rights over the resources of the continental shelf, rights concerning the management and conservation of living resources in coastal waters, rights of coastal states to take measures to protect their marine environment, rights to control scientific research within zones of maritime jurisdiction, and rights of all states to the disposition of the riches of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of all mankind.

In the area of broad-spectrum multilateral environmental organizations, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is the one which involves the largest cross-section of developed and developing countries representing economies ranging from centrally-planned to free-enterprise. This program was formed as a result of the Stockholm United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, and has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Canada is a member of the Governing Council, has participated actively in the development of its program, and has contributed to the UN Environment Fund. The Second Session of the Governing Council was held in Nairobi in March 1974 and priority programs approved included: work in the area of human settlements, human health and well-being; land, water and desertification; trade economics, technology and the transfer of technology; oceans; conservation of nature, wildlife and genetic resources; energy and the Earthwatch program. Nationally, work continued on the preparation of a co-ordinated federal-provincial response to the Stockholm Action Plan, taking into account Canadian needs and priorities.

Canada also played an active and visible role in two major UN-sponsored conferences in 1974 — the World Population Conference held in Bucharest in August, and the World Food Conference held in Rome in November. Preparatory work was also initiated for the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) scheduled for Vancouver in 1976, and for the UN World Water Conference scheduled for Buenos Aires in 1977.

In 1973 Canada became a full member of the Economic Commission for Europe, one of five regional economic commissions within the UN system. Environment-related activities are undertaken by a large number of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies, with a co-ordinating responsibility assigned to the Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems. Canada has been participating in a number of these activities and has been particularly interested in exploring ways of improving co-ordination and rationalizing resource allocations in those areas of common interest to a number of international organizations such as transboundary air pollution, environmental aspects of water resources management and non-waste technology.

Canada has also continued to participate in the UNESCO program on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) — an internationally co-ordinated interdisciplinary research program focusing on the conservation of the resources of the biosphere. As a member of the International Coordinating Council, Canada has been influential in building social science concerns into the development of proposals. Canada has continued to provide experts to participate in international meetings to further develop specific proposals. Nationally, work on two sub-program areas, urbanization, and agricultural and forestry practices has progressed to the stage of publishing provisional research frameworks and the hiring of two sub-program co-