

these projects, see the 1972 *Canada Year Book* p 520.) Also, under the Canada Water Act, arrangements are made with individual provinces as required to co-ordinate federal and provincial water quality monitoring programs and exchange data. There are no intergovernmental payments involved and this program, initiated in 1966, is continually modified to take account of new pollution problems.

There are many other formal or informal federal-provincial programs related to specific aspects of renewable resources and the environment such as forest and wildlife management, hydrometric data gathering, flooding assistance and flood control, forest pest control, fisheries, and specific non-recurring joint programs are developed from time to time. An example of this is the one-year joint Canada/Ontario study to survey Great Lakes shoreline damage resulting from recent high water levels and to provide the basis for recommendations on long-term remedial and protective measures.

Further information on these programs is available in a report entitled *Descriptive inventory of federal-provincial programs and activities* published in January 1974 by the Privy Council Office.

1.5.3 International programs

Canada is involved in two distinct types of multilateral programs — those which are primarily environmental and those which are primarily resource conservation and management. Most of the latter focus on the aquatic environment. For example, Canada is a member of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea. This 17-member body encourages and co-ordinates studies of the marine environment with particular reference to the living resources of the sea, primarily in the north Atlantic. Canada is also a member of 10 international fisheries commissions established under the terms of formal Conventions. These commissions assume responsibility for the investigation of specific living marine resources in defined areas, in order to further rationalize development and conservation of fisheries of common concern to member states.

Canada also participated in the International Hydrological Decade (IHD) (January 1, 1965 — December 31, 1974) set up under United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) auspices to facilitate a better understanding of hydrological phenomena to allow prediction of the results of development of water resources in the interests of better management. The National Co-ordinating Committee is composed of representatives from federal, provincial, university and specialized agencies. There are IHD committees in eight provinces.

Within the framework of the International Hydrological Decade, Canada and the United States are involved in an intensive study of Lake Ontario under the title International Field Year for the Great Lakes. This field work was conducted between April 1, 1972 and March 31, 1973 with the object of organizing the data and preparing a report by the end of 1974.

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. 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. 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.

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 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.