

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "COASTAL ZONE CANADA '96"

A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE AND WISE USE OF COASTAL AND OCEAN RESOURCES:

"THE RIMOUSKI DECLARATION"

RECOGNIZING that the coastal and ocean environments of all coastal nations are together of global significance for biodiversity and natural resources, and as such each coastal nation has an international responsibility for their wise use;

AWARE AND CONCERNED of the continuing reduction in coastal and ocean biodiversity and resources loss and degradation of habitats, and the decline in environmental quality especially resulting from pollution;

REITERATING the international obligations to sustain and enhance all coastal and ocean environments, both natural and cultural;

FULLY ACCEPTING the principles laid down by the Rio Declaration, in particular those of sustainable development and the precautionary approach, and the need to make significant progress on international agreements and declarations including the UN Conference on Human Environment, the World Commission on Environment and Development, "the Brundtland Report", the World Coast Conference "Noordwijk Guidelines" and the Global Program of Action "the Washington Declaration";

ACKNOWLEDGING both the cultural and economic importance of coastal zones and oceans, the need to respect the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, and the need to involve fully coastal communities in the management of coasts and oceans;

The Coastal Zone Canada '96 International Conference in Rimouski calls upon Governments of coastal nations, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity:

TO ACCEPT responsibility for the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and take a strong lead in developing national frameworks for integrated management of coastal and marine resources;

TO DEFINE clear national aims, objectives and targets for the sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources, and to reflect these in appropriate policy guidance;

TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT national coastal and ocean action programmes which contribute to the long-term goal of sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources;

TO PROVIDE the legal, financial and administrative mechanisms in order to enable national coastal and ocean action programmes;

TO PROVIDE the resources necessary to implement national coastal and ocean action programmes and in particular, to build capacity and empower communities to take a full and active role in the wise management of coastal and ocean resources;

TO DEVELOP specific programmes of coastal and ocean education, training and research in order to improve understanding, awareness and appreciation of coastal and ocean environments.

Adopted at Rimouski, Quebec, Canada - August 16, 1996

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "COASTAL ZONE CANADA '96"

THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF COASTAL AND OCEANS RESOURCES IN CANADA

"THE RIMOUSKI CALL FOR ACTION"

RECOGNIZING that Canada is a maritime nation with the longest coastline in the world spanning four coasts, the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Arctic and our Great Lakes, and has sovereign responsibilities over its ocean areas and resources;

RECOGNIZING that the people of Canada entrust the Governments of Canada to manage the oceans in a sustainable manner for the benefit of future generations;

RECOGNIZING Canada's strong historic and cultural links to the sea and marine resources;

RECOGNIZING that Canada's coastal and ocean resources generate billions of dollars annually and present opportunities for wealth generation and significant future economic benefits;

RECOGNIZING that this marine economic opportunity is contingent on the urgent need to conserve, sustain and protect Canada's coastal and marine environments and resources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Canada's international coastal and oceans obligations and the importance of the oceans;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the continuing public support for developing a coastal and ocean management framework for Canada;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to empower coastal peoples and communities in the sustainable management and development of coastal and marine environments and resources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the rights and interests of the First Nations in coastal and marine environments and resources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the effort of the Governments of Canada to enact new legislation, for example the *Canada Oceans Act*, espousing the principles of sustainable development, integrated management and precaution; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the preparations for the International Year of the Oceans in 1998,

WE THE UNDERSIGNED CALL FOR

The immediate action by Canadians to develop and implement a Canadian Oceans Policy for the 21st Century;

The rapid passage and implementation of the *Canada Oceans Act*, in particular the commitment to involve broad-based public participation in the immediate formulation and development of programs for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Marine Environment Quality, and Marine Protected Areas;

The continued establishment of community-based and for community-led integrated coastal management process and programs, in collaboration with federal, provincial and municipal governments, indigenous peoples, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties, to develop the sustainable use of coastal and oceans resources;

The support for and integration of traditional ecological knowledge together with conventional science in policy and management decision-making;

The designation of marine protected areas to conserve and protect critical habitats, marine biodiversity and marine living resources;

The development and implementation of Canada's *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*;

The enhanced support of education to heighten awareness of the importance of the oceans and the need to protect the marine environment; and

For Canada to meet and where possible exceed its international coastal and oceans obligations thereby contributing to the sustainability of the planet.

This declaration was adopted by the Coastal Zone Canada Association at the Coastal Zone Canada '96 Conference in Rimouski, Québec, Canada, on August 15, 1996, and by the Conference on August 16, 1996.