

## **CPAWS releases major report on the state of Canada's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

QUICK FACTS – April 30, 2008.

CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) is releasing a major report today on Canada's long delay in creating a national network of marine protected areas. Both the full 148-page report and a 24-page summary will be distributed at a press conference at the Eternal Flame on Parliament Hill at 11 a.m. at 11 AM.

\*Marine Protected Area or MPA: a section of water off-limits to major industry like mining, seismic testing and bottom trawling. With low impact from humans, MPAs support healthy ecosystems where biodiversity can flourish and fish stocks can replenish.

\*Less than one percent of Canada's oceans are protected.

\*Canada is ranked 70<sup>th</sup> in the world out of 228 countries in the establishment of MPAs.

Canada's commitments to MPAs:

At the national level:

1992 - Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas

2002 – Canada's Ocean Strategy

2004 – Canada's Oceans Action Plan

2005 – Federal Budget

2007 – Federal Budget

At the international level:

2002 – World Summit on Sustainable Development

2003 – World Parks Congress

2004 – Convention on Biological Diversity

\*To date, with the recent announcement of Bowie Seamount, Canada has created nine marine protected areas – seven under the Oceans Act (DFO) and two under the National Marine Conservation Act (Parks Canada). Some national parks also have a marine component. Environment Canada now has five candidate areas and 64 national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries that include a marine component.

\* Canada has the longest coastline in the world and one of the largest ocean territories – 5.87 million sq km – more than half of our land mass.

\*Major threats to Canada's oceans – overfishing, destructive fishing methods, habitat destruction, pollution and climate change.

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