



# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

## BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ON NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S COAST

### SOUND SCIENCE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Environment and Climate Change Canada is collecting data to better understand the current environmental landscape of Northern British Columbia. We will use this information to support effective preparedness and response efforts. Working closely with our partners, we will make sure that the most current data is used to inform decisions that protect British Columbia's north coast.

### WHAT INFORMATION ARE WE COLLECTING?

Over the next five years, we will collect baseline biological, ecological, social and cultural data about British Columbia's northern shorelines. We will:

- Take georeferenced videos and photographs from a helicopter.
- Complete a physical characterization of the shorelines.
- Update socioeconomic and ecological information.
- Conduct baseline surveys of priority marine bird species to identify their distribution and abundance.
- Conduct eco-toxicological work on migratory bird species to understand the effects of oil.
- Collect local and traditional knowledge in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and communities.

Gathering baseline data along British Columbia's north coast about important species and areas will help understand ecosystem sensitivities and future response planning.

### INNOVATION

This initiative will look at innovative ways to improve information gathering and sharing including:

- Exploring new ways to map our coastlines, such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and airborne and satellite imaging systems.
- Computer modelling to study marine birds' habitat and their risks of oil exposure, including the identification of highly sensitive areas.
- Modernizing our national web-mapping application to support preparedness and response.



This initiative is another action that the Government of Canada is taking to protect the country's coasts and waterways. The Government is investing \$1.5 billion in the Oceans Protection Plan, a national strategy to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting coastlines for future generations.