

# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

Canada's coasts and waterways are an important facet of Canadian life and culture. They are a workplace for some and a playground for others. They allow us to travel and exchange goods. They are a source of inspiration and pride for us all. The \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan is the largest investment ever made to protect Canada's coasts and waterways, while growing our economy. With this Plan, future generations will continue to enjoy and benefit from this key part of Canada's identity.



## OBJECTIVES

- Create a world-leading marine safety system that protects Canada's waters.
- Restore and protect marine ecosystems and habitats.
- Create stronger local emergency response capacity by establishing Indigenous partnerships and by engaging coastal communities.
- Invest in oil spill cleanup research and methods to ensure that decisions taken to protect the marine environment are evidence-based.

## OPP ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Partnership and collaboration are the foundation of the Government of Canada's actions to protect our coasts. We are partnering with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities and seeking their advice and traditional knowledge in a number of areas concerning the Oceans Protection Plan. Our engagement is locally coordinated, transparent, collaborative, and supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE ARCTIC

- Investments to create high value jobs while improving marine safety and enhancing the ability to protect the marine environment.
- Investments to enhance and expand marine training opportunities for women, Northerners, and Indigenous peoples in Canada's Arctic.
- Collecting data to assess potential cumulative effects of marine shipping in Eastern Arctic Nunavut.
- Engaging with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities to collect environmental baseline data on coastal ecosystems.
- Modern hydrographic surveys to address gaps in Arctic data and charts.
- Investments in safety equipment and infrastructure across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to ensure safer sealift and community supply.
- Increasing the number of Marine Safety Inspectors in northern communities.
- Increased presence of the Canadian Coast Guard in the Arctic through extension of the operational season.
- Expanding the Indigenous community boat program.
- Establishing a new inshore rescue boat station in the Arctic.
- Increasing marine medical services in the North.
- Expanding the National Aerial Surveillance Program to improve the observing, analyzing, recording, and reporting of marine pollution in Canada's northern waters, including a new aircraft hangar complex in Iqaluit, N.U.
- Creating Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Chapters in the Arctic.
- Working together as partners with Indigenous and coastal communities for improvement of Canada's northern marine transportation system.
- Implementing a comprehensive national strategy to address abandoned, hazardous and wrecked vessels that focuses on the prevention and removal of these problem vessels.
- Providing and sharing real-time marine traffic information with local communities.
- Developing a national framework to help guide the management of local marine traffic issues and reduce local marine traffic issues.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS



More information: [www.canada.ca/protecting-our-coasts](http://www.canada.ca/protecting-our-coasts)



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## PRESERVING ECOSYSTEMS

- **Conserve or restore marine ecosystems** through the \$75-million Coastal Restoration Fund, and Marine Mammal Response and Marine Protected Area Surveillance Program.
- **Mitigate the risks of shipping on marine mammals and the environment** like underwater noise through assessments of current and potential mitigation measures; and, marine environmental quality assessments.
- **Assess the impacts of marine shipping on the environment** by evaluating cumulative impacts of shipping in key ecosystems, and building a program to assess potential impacts of future development.
- **Eliminate abandoned boats and wrecks** by developing a plan that focusses on prevention, removal and recycling, **making vessel owners liable for any cost of clean-up and through education and outreach programs.**
- **Collect environmental baseline data** through engagement with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities.

## EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

- **Better understand oil spills in water** with research funding on how oil behaves in water, multi-partner research funding on oil spill response technology, and oil spill drift prediction.
- **Conduct research to improve measures for oil spill response planning and clean-up.**

## PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

- **Build Indigenous partnerships in the marine safety system**, creating two new Coast Guard Auxiliary chapters; launching an Indigenous Community Boat Volunteer program; and creating Indigenous Community Response Teams.
- **Develop oceans collaborative management frameworks** with the public, Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders.
- **Increase participation of Indigenous peoples, coastal communities and women** by providing training opportunities and including Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in decision making.
- **Create national public forums** for Canadians to discuss shipping safety and environmental issues.



## WORLD-LEADING MARINE SAFETY

- **Provide and share real-time marine traffic information** with local communities.
- **Collaborate on local marine traffic management**, including establishing speed restrictions and safe passage routes.
- **Improve incident management toward seamless response** by implementing the Incident Command System; new mobile command posts; and, marine communications and traffic services delivery.
- **Expand risk-based response planning tailored to local needs** through enhanced risk analysis of maritime search and rescue.
- **Modernize legislation and regulations** to strengthen the polluter pay principle by amending the Ship-Source Pollution Fund to include access to adequate compensation and amending the *Pilotage Act* and other shipping regulations.
- **Modernize hydrography and charting in key areas**, as well as near shore and high-priority ports.
- **Increase on-water presence and marine emergency response capacity** by implementing Primary Environmental Response Teams and modernizing Coast Guard environmental response equipment.
- **Expand the role of Coast Guard Auxiliary** to include environmental response training.
- **Invest in safety equipment and basic marine infrastructure** through additional RADAR sites, new tow kits on Coast Guard's large vessels, and improved maritime communications capabilities including enhancements to Marine Communications and Traffic Centres.



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