

Since 2016, [Canada's Oceans Protection Plan](#) has made marine shipping safer, increased protection for our marine species and coastal ecosystems, and improved Canada's ability to prevent and respond to marine incidents. This has been accomplished in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities, the marine industry, and academia. Below is some of the progress made through the Oceans Protection Plan in the Arctic so far.

Marine shipping is safer

- Introduced [Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations](#) to effectively handle the unique hazards faced by vessels in the Arctic.
- Invested in safety equipment and marine infrastructure to improve the efficiency of critical sealift and resupply operations in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut communities.
- Saw 150 students complete the Marine Training Program with the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium—the sole provider of training in the North—to help reduce barriers to marine training for underrepresented groups, Inuit, First Nations, Metis, women and northerners.
- Increased the number of Marine Safety Inspectors in Northern communities to improve the safety of marine vessels, their crews, and the environment while they operate in the Arctic.
- Creating safe shipping routes in the Arctic to minimize potential effects of vessel traffic to wildlife, respecting culturally and ecologically sensitive areas, enhancing marine navigation safety, and providing a framework for investments in the North.
- Completed hydrographic surveys for 23 high-priority commercial ports and released 33 new or updated corresponding Electronic Navigation Charts to help mariners navigate safer through high-traffic commercial ports and waterways, including those in the Arctic.
- Increased modern hydrographic coverage in the Arctic Primary and Secondary Low Impact Shipping Corridors to help mariners navigate safer.
- Improved access to real-time ice condition information for hunters, trappers, fishers, and truckers to help them travel safely on ice in communities within Inuit Nunangat through SmartICE technology.



Greater protection for coastal ecosystems

- Changed the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001](#) to put stronger rules in place to protect marine environments and species from the impacts of marine shipping.
- Expanded the [National Aerial Surveillance Program](#) to increase the observing, analyzing, recording, and reporting of marine pollution in Canada's northern waters. Investments include ongoing construction of a new aircraft hangar complex in Iqaluit, Nunavut.
- Collected marine environmental data in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to inform future decision-making for Arctic ecosystems.
- Developed web-based scientific sharing systems, which collected ocean science data from many projects to help guide decisions that impact sensitive marine environments.
- Invested in 6 projects to work with communities to identify aquatic habitat restoration priorities in the Arctic.
- Funded Northern land claims organizations to take part in negotiations regarding a potential ban on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic.
- Funded the Vancouver Aquarium to study the impact of microplastics in the Arctic Ocean and their impacts on marine life.



Improved prevention and response to marine incidents

- Established a 24/7 Regional Operations Centre in the Canadian Coast Guard Central Region to enhance marine awareness, environmental response, and search and rescue capacity in the Arctic.
- Extended the Canadian Coast Guard's annual Arctic operational season to help mariners both earlier and later in the navigation season.
- Expanded local search and rescue programs to reduce response times and better support northern coastal communities during marine incidents.
- Opened the first Inshore Rescue Boat Station in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut—the first in the Arctic—that is staffed by Indigenous post-secondary students under the guidance of an experienced Canadian Coast Guard officer.
- Supported research scientists, meteorologists, and experts at the Canadian Meteorological Centre in Dorval, Quebec, to develop leading-edge technology to share with emergency responders. This work included coastal ocean, wave, and ice forecasts for Canada's three coastlines. The technology improves a responders' ability to estimate vessel drifts and react to local changes in environmental conditions.
- Carried out a Risk-Based Analysis of Maritime Search and Rescue Delivery (RAMSARD) study of the Canadian Arctic.



Increased collaboration with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities

- Co-developed a web-based platform with the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization, the Nunatsiavut Government, and 10 other Indigenous peoples nationally to share near real-time marine traffic and environmental data to improve local marine safety, environmental monitoring and protection, and manage waterway activity.
- Piloted a project with Indigenous peoples, marine stakeholders, researchers, and maritime authorities in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, where a Notice to Mariners advises icebreakers when local community members are travelling on the frozen waterways to hunt caribou.
- Funded 17 Indigenous coastal communities to buy search and rescue boats and equipment to improve their local marine safety capacity.
- Provided participation and capacity funding to support Indigenous peoples and organizations to develop, plan, and/or execute Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.
- Developed information packages to address community concerns and outline applicable legislation in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. These packages included information on ballast water, seismic testing, cruise ships, search and rescue, and other topics.

