

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 on the East Coast so far.

Marine shipping is safer

- Updated the [Pilotage Act](#) to ensure marine pilots taking control to navigate large vessels through ports, straits, lakes, rivers, and other Canadian waters have local knowledge before taking control.
- Saw 17 students complete the [Marine Training Program](#), offered in partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College, for future careers in the marine industry.
- Removed or assessed over 84 abandoned and wrecked vessels from Atlantic waterways and established the [Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act](#), making it illegal to abandon a vessel in Canadian waters.
- Constructed 3 radar towers in the Strait of Belle Isle, Newfoundland and Labrador; Robin Hood Bay (St. John's), Newfoundland and Labrador; and Strait of Canso, Nova Scotia, to improve coastal coverage and tracking for marine traffic.
- Collected seafloor data on the west coast of Newfoundland to improve charts to help mariners navigate safer.
- Deployed 3 new, state-of-the-art weather buoys: 2 in Nova Scotia's Strait of Canso and 1 in New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy, to reduce weather-related risks to mariners.
- Developed local forecasts for the next 12 to 24 hours supported by special, dedicated weather buoys in high-risk areas like ports, harbours, and busy shipping lanes. These forecasts use high-resolution weather models and reduce weather-related risks to mariners.
- Initiated studies on the potential effects of how marine shipping impacts the environment and coastal communities in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, and in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick.



Greater protection for coastal ecosystems

- Changed the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001](#) to better protect marine ecosystems, including marine mammals, from interactions with vessels and navigation activities. This change also strengthened the Canadian Coast Guard's ability to respond earlier, faster, and more effectively to potential emergencies and pollution incidents from ships.
- Implemented speed restrictions and other measures in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Roseway Basin to help prevent North Atlantic right whale collisions with vessels and entanglements in fishing gear.
- Funded 18 coastal aquatic habitat rehabilitation projects to restore local ecosystems to better support marine life.
- Funded 27 projects to support environmental data collection for a broad scope of ecosystem-focused projects in collaboration Indigenous peoples, environmental and fisheries organizations, academia, and scientists in the St. Lawrence Estuary, the Port of Saint John, and Placentia Bay. This knowledge of local habitats and species will contribute to improved understanding of the marine environment over time.
- Collaborated with provincial partners to fund research and develop a Marine Environmental Quality guideline which will help reduce nutrient loading in estuaries of the Northumberland Strait, improving ecosystem health there.



Improved prevention and response to marine incidents

- Opened new Canadian Coast Guard search and rescue stations in St. Anthony, Old Perlican, and Twillingate, each with a dedicated Bay Class vessel and a new fast rescue craft, to enhance the Canadian Coast Guard's ability to respond to marine emergencies, including environmental response, in the waters off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Reopened the Canadian Coast Guard's Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, to coordinate on-the-water response to marine incidents.
- Hired Environmental Emergency Officers and a Wildlife Response Coordinator for the Atlantic Region to enhance our ability to prepare for and respond to marine environmental emergencies.
- Established a 24/7 National Command Centre in Ottawa and 24/7 Regional Operations Centres to enhance marine awareness, environmental response, and search and rescue capacity in the Atlantic, Western, Central, and Arctic regions.
- Studied how oil could spread in the St. Lawrence Seaway in case of spills to learn how to respond more effectively and efficiently.
- Purchased equipment and provided training to fishery officers to help them better respond to marine mammal incidents such as entanglements, beaching, and collisions with vessels.
- Completed drift prediction and near-shore modelling surveys in high-risk near-shore areas on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Gulf of St. Lawrence to improve navigation safety and to respond to emergencies.
- 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.



Increased collaboration with Indigenous and coastal communities

- Co-developed a web-based platform with the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and 12 other Indigenous communities across Canada that provides near real-time marine traffic and environmental data to help enhance local marine safety, environmental monitoring and protection, and manage waterway activities.
- Collaborated with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council to co-develop and co-present the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping workshops for the Bay of Fundy pilot project to restore coastal habitats. A similar pilot is now underway in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Provided funding to the Government of Nunatsiavut (Inuit territory in Labrador) to build infrastructure to promote safe freight storage in 3 communities.
- Provided funding for 7 Indigenous coastal communities to buy search and rescue boats and equipment to improve their marine safety capacity.
- Partnered with Indigenous and coastal communities and local organizations for data collection to enable the protection of sensitive marine habitats and species.
- Provided funding to the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq to organize engagement sessions and to create an information booklet for community members on the Oceans Protection Plan and other oceans related topics.
- Contributed funding to the NunatuKavut Community Council to share information on Oceans Protection Plan initiatives with their community members.

