

Results of Canada's OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

ONTARIO

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 Ontario so far.

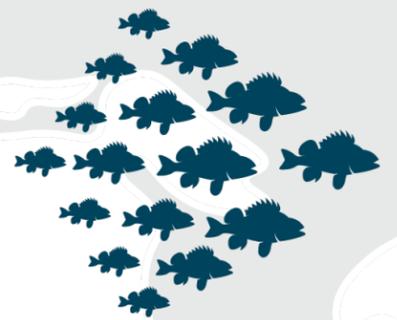
Marine shipping is safer



- 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.
- Removed or assessed over 40 abandoned and wrecked vessels from Ontario lakes and rivers and established the [Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act](#), making it illegal to abandon a vessel in Canadian waters.
- Awarded a contract to an Ontario-based company for 36 new shore-based radars and equipment to help mariners navigate safer.
- Funded a project to examine practical, economical, safe, and environmentally sustainable ways to reuse or recycle an entire boat.
- 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.

Greater protection for coastal ecosystems

- Changed the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001](#) to better protect marine ecosystems, including marine mammals, from the impacts of marine shipping 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.
- Increased the number of fishery officers on the water to verify compliance with fisheries management measures and the [Marine Mammal Regulations](#) and to enforce the disturbance and harassment provisions of the regulations and the [Species at Risk Act](#).
- Flew an additional 604 hours in Transport Canada's [National Aerial Surveillance Program](#) airplanes to monitor and track marine pollution.
- Built models to show the full water cycle from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, including the St. Lawrence Seaway to help emergency responders better predict how oil would move in those waterways.



Improved prevention and response to marine incidents



- Successfully 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.
- Increased number of staff at the Marine Communications and Traffic Services Prescott facility. This facility is responsible for traffic along the St. Lawrence River east of Cornwall to Kingston, through Lake Ontario to the eastern end of Lake Erie, the Welland Canal and portions of the Rideau waterway, the Trent/Severn waterway, and the Ottawa River.
- Purchased 24 emergency communications storage and response trailers from an Ontario-based company to respond to marine oil spills and other environmental contamination incidents across the country. One of these trailers will be based in Ontario.
- Trained federal emergency response personnel in Ontario in the internationally recognized Incident Command System and/or Emergency Coordination Centre training to help make responses to marine accidents faster and more effective.
- Modernized 134 Marine Communications and Traffic Services remote sites and 91 back-up links nationally, including those in Ontario, to provide better coverage and communications to mariners in remote areas.
- Awarded a contract to build 10 lifeboats in Wheatley, Ontario, contributing to safer waters and coasts across Canada.
- Modernized [Canada's Ship-Source Oil Pollution Fund](#), including making unlimited compensation available to responders and victims of ship-source oil spills.

Increased collaboration with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities

- Held over 80 engagement sessions with Ontario-based Indigenous peoples and marine stakeholders to develop, plan, and/or execute Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.
- Supported funding to the Chiefs of Ontario, under the [Indigenous and Local Communities Engagement and Partnership Program](#), for ongoing engagement and partnership on Ocean Protection Plan initiatives.
- Shared access to a web-based program that provides near real-time marine traffic and environmental data with 4 Ontario Indigenous communities to help enhance local marine safety, environmental monitoring, and protection and manage waterway activities.
- Partnered with 4 Indigenous communities in the Great Lakes Sector to hire a community member to act as marine liaison officer for work on the Oceans Protection Plan.

