

Marine shipping is safer



- Updated the [Pilotage Act](#) to ensure marine pilots navigating large vessels through ports, straits, lakes, rivers, and other Canadian waters have local knowledge before taking control.
- Collected seafloor data throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to improve navigation charts to help mariners navigate more safely. Also refurbished 34 tide and water level monitoring stations.
- Funded a project to examine practical, economical, safe, and environmentally sustainable ways to reuse an entire boat.
- Supported research scientists, meteorologists, and experts at the Canadian Meteorological Centre and Environmental Prediction 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.
- 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.
- Removed and 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.



Improved prevention and response to marine incidents



- Successfully made the Canadian Coast Guard's National Command Centre in Ottawa operational 24/7, as well as several Regional Operations Centres across Canada in order to enhance marine awareness, environmental response, and search and rescue capacity.
- 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.

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 [Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness \(EMSA\)](#), 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.
- Provided funding for 2 Indigenous coastal communities to buy search and rescue boats and equipment to improve their marine safety capacity.

