



Oceans Protection Plan

The Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) initiative

Background:

Indigenous and coastal communities have expressed the need for more information on what's taking place in their local waters. In response, Transport Canada is working with Indigenous communities across the country to develop, test, and refine a new user-friendly maritime information system.

We've worked with Indigenous communities and other partners and stakeholders to identify their requirements for the system, to make sure that it meets regional and local needs. Indigenous communities played a role in selecting the software developer. They continue to use their local knowledge and expertise to test, provide feedback, and improve the maritime awareness information system.

What is a Maritime Information System?

Indigenous and coastal communities can access a near real-time picture of maritime activity and other relevant information through an easy-to-use digital platform available on computers, smart phones and tablets. The system supports local and collaborative planning, analysis and decision-making by helping communities to:

- monitor local vessel traffic and get ice, wind, weather and other data
- increase capacity and reduce local response time for marine emergencies
- identify sensitive ecological areas
- improve local marine safety and environmental protection

The data comes from a variety of sources including:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Canadian Coast Guard
- federal communications centres and satellites

What have we done so far?

Since 2017 the Government of Canada through EMSA has:

- ✓ **Engaged** Indigenous communities, partners and stakeholders to better understand maritime information needs and priorities.
- ✓ **Worked** with Indigenous and coastal communities to identify pilot communities to test the system.
- ✓ **Collaborated** with partners to implement the technology in communities across Canada, and collected valuable feedback for system updates and improvements.
- ✓ **Improved** the quality and accessibility of maritime information to make sure communities have the information they need to make decisions on maritime issues.



What's next?

We will keep working with participating communities, other partners and stakeholders to improve the EMSA system. Through this work, the data we collect will inform a long-term approach for a maritime information system in Canada.



Strengthening partnerships is another action the Government of Canada is taking to protect our coasts and waterways. The Government is investing \$1.5 billion in the Oceans Protection Plan, a national strategy that will improve marine safety and responsible shipping, protect Canada's marine environment and help advance Indigenous reconciliation.