



Oceans Protection Plan

Investing in science to protect our waters from oil spills

Background

The Government of Canada is working with Canadians and Indigenous peoples to keep our coasts clean and protected. We are developing new partnerships and investing in research that is improving our knowledge and generating new technologies to mitigate and prevent marine incidents such as oil spills.

We are building partnerships with oil spill experts in government, industry and academia and investing in research and technologies to better understand:

- oil spill behavior and biological effects
- containment and cleaning techniques
- ocean models, which predict how oil spills could spread

What have we done so far?

- ✓ **Conducted tests** with petroleum products to observe biodegradation processes and impacts on various species
- ✓ **Researched the behaviour** of different types of petroleum products and **examined the effectiveness of spill treating agents** under realistic oceanographic and environmental conditions, to help inform decisions making processes for the benefit the environment
- ✓ **Invested in biological effects research** at Canadian universities and research organizations to better understand the effects of spilled petroleum products on Canadian marine species

What's next?

- Further research on petroleum products to help reduce or minimize clean-up challenges and inform legislation to help safeguard marine areas
- More studies to explore how oil biodegradation processes impact water toxicity and organic compounds
- Further research on the biological effects of petroleum products, including spill treating agents
- Controlled spill testing in large tanks to study how oil spills behave in water and how to improve clean up, and enhance response measures

Oil and gas research 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 is improving marine safety and responsible shipping, protecting Canada's marine environment and helping advance Indigenous reconciliation.