



# Oceans Protection Plan

## The Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Bioregional Oceans Management and Protection

### Background

For generations, life for coastal First Nations and their communities have been tied to Canada's oceans. In the spirit of reconciliation, the Government of Canada and several British Columbia First Nations have signed a collaborative agreement on the Pacific North Coast to manage, restore and protect the ocean waters there.

### What is the Reconciliation Framework Agreement?

This Agreement, signed on June 21, 2018, represents the first time in history that the Government of Canada and multiple First Nations formally committed to working together to protect the marine environment and improve marine safety over a large geographic area.

Parties taking part in the Agreement include: the Council of the Haida Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla First Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, Nuxalk First Nation, Wuikinuxv First Nation, and the Mamalilikulla Nation, Tlowitsis Nation, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala First Nation, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, and K'ómoks First Nations as represented by Nanwakolas Council, and the Government of Canada.

### What have we done so far?

Since the historic Reconciliation Framework Agreement was signed, the parties have:

- ✓ **Launched** response planning, proactive vessel management and enhanced maritime situational awareness projects across the Northern Shelf Bioregion to improve marine safety and the local marine environment.
- ✓ **Created** a governance structure including an Executive Committee, Steering Committees and Technical Working Groups. The committees and working groups will focus on specific projects in the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

### What's next?

We will continue to collaborate on safety and prevention projects, with a focus on marine spatial planning and voluntary traffic management measures.

The Reconciliation Framework Agreement 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.