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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Seattle, Wash.)

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Apr 5th, 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

## Oceans protection plan overview

Lorraine Gill

*Transport Canada, Canada*, [Lorraine.Gill@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Gill@tc.gc.ca)

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Gill, Lorraine, "Oceans protection plan overview" (2018). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 383.  
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/383>

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# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

Oceans Protection Plan  
Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference 2018  
April 5, 2018 – Seattle, WA



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

# Overview: Context

As a trading nation, marine transportation is a key driver for Canada.

- Provides Northern and remote communities with food and other essential goods
- Employs approximately 250,000 Canadians

In recent years, we have identified areas for improvement in marine safety, and oceans protection through extensive research and consultation with Canadians.

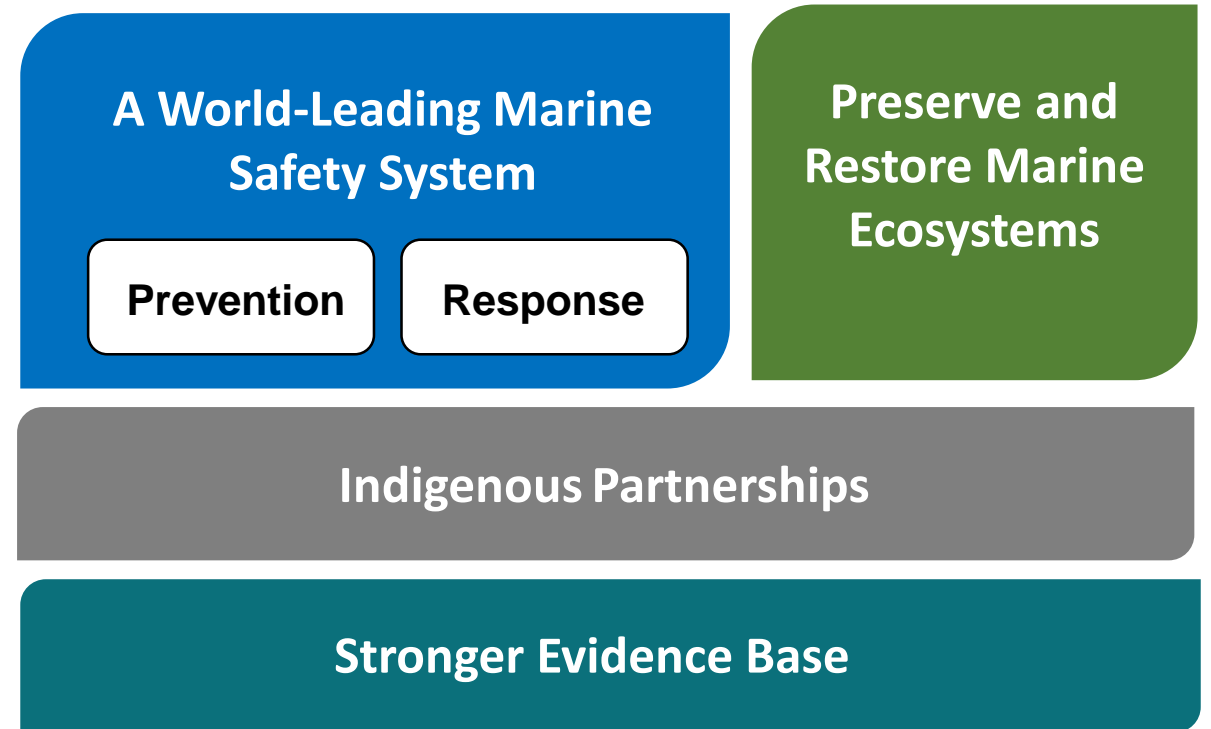


# What is the Oceans Protection Plan?

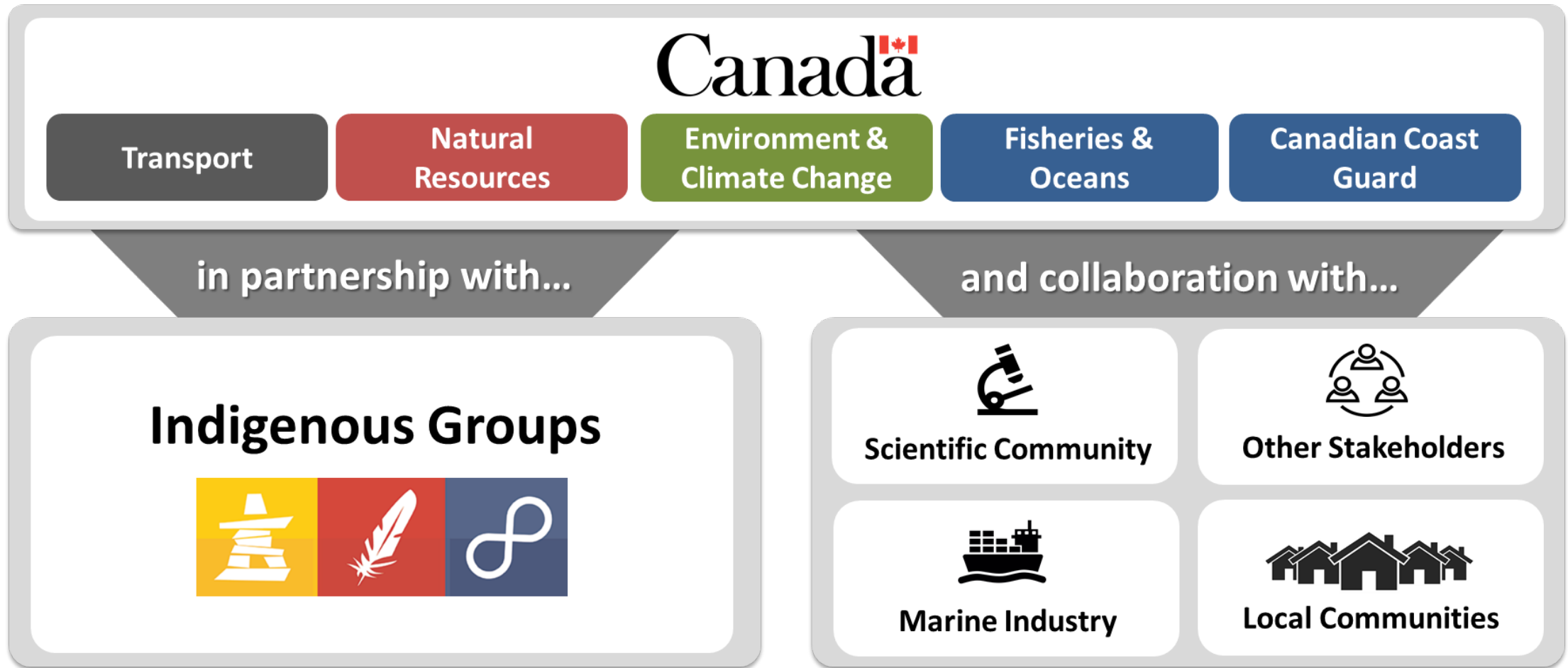
5 year national Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) will:

- Improve marine safety and responsible shipping
- Protect Canada's marine environment
- Strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities
- Invest in science for evidence-based decision-making

*Between 2017-2022, over 50 initiatives will be delivered to meet these goals.*



# How is the Oceans Protection Plan organized?



# Oceans Protection Plan – priority areas



Prevention: Managing Waterways for Safety



Response: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies



Preserving and Restoring Marine Ecosystems



Indigenous Partnerships



Stronger Evidence Base

- Oceans Protection Plan initiatives range across these priority areas.
- Updates and deep dives into initiatives already underway related to Prevention and Ecosystems
- Focus on Response with several new initiatives
- Indigenous Partnerships and Stronger Evidence Base underlie many initiatives



# Update on Prevention: Managing Waterways for Safety

## Maritime Awareness Information System

- Introduced Fall 2017
- Next step: refining prototype and moving forward with pilot sites
- Targeting 2020 for recommendations based on lessons learned from pilots

## Proactive Vessel Management

- Introduced Fall 2017
- Next step: refining concept; drafting framework
- Development of the framework will be ongoing; pilot will be conducted in 2018-19 to test framework and make recommendations based on lessons learned

## Anchorage

- Introduced Fall 2017
- Next step: Evidence based reviews (research & analysis)
- Will lead to a National Anchorages Framework & Best Practice Guide by 2019





# Update on Prevention: Managing Waterways for Safety

## TERMPOL Program Review

- o Engagement to start in June 2018 on input into potential changes to process, regulations and legislation
- o Final report with proposed options and recommendations to be delivered in 2019

## Pilotage Act Review

- o Launched in 2017
- o Next Step: review findings & seek final advice from Indigenous groups and stakeholders in March 2018
- o Provide report & recommendations to the Minister of Transport by April 2018







# Response: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

## Increased emergency tow capacity

- Towing needs assessment has begun
- For completion Spring 2018

## Places of Refuge Planning

- Areas **of refuge** requested by commercial vessel when in need of assistance
- Engagement starting in June 2018 to add annexes to Transport Canada's Places of Refuge Plan
- Target for completion by 2022





# Response: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

## Strengthen polluter-pay principle by updating the Ship-Source Oil Pollution Fund

- Unlimited compensation and making funds easily accessible to oil spill responders and victims
- Next step: Amendments to the Marine Liability Act
- Engagement continuing through Spring 2018 (Day 2)

## Hazardous and Noxious Substances

- Develop a national program to better prepare for and respond to hazardous and noxious substance releases from ships (Day 2)
- Continue engagement through spring 2018 - Aim to report back to government in 2018/19

## Alternative Response Measures

- Expanding the range of response options available for ship-source oil spills.
- Next Step: Working on a legal and operational framework, supported by science, to allow the use of alternative response measures as possible options (Day 2)
- To be completed by 2022





# Response: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

## Other initiatives include:

- Indigenous Community Response Training & Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGA);
  - Strengthens Individual Nation's response capabilities in Search & Rescue and Environmental Response
  - Integrated training efforts happening online, at CCG facilities and in communities
  - 2-3 New Coastal Nations CGA units stood up June 2018
- 24/7 response capacity; Modernized response equipment; New logistics depot In Port Hardy; Enhanced search and rescue capacity; Four new lifeboat stations on the west coast





# Update: Preserving & Restoring Marine Ecosystems

## Assessing Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping

- Introduced in Fall 2017
- Next step: Understanding key marine stressors and factors to consider in study area boundaries; linkages, relationships between vessel stressors and environmental components
- To be completed by: Next step completed by Spring 2018, initiative ends 2022

## National Strategy for Abandoned & Wrecked Vessels

- Reduce the number of abandoned and wrecked vessels by preventing new problem vessels and cleaning-up existing ones.
- Next steps: Ongoing national engagement on implementation of the five key measures under the National Strategy.
- Info: [TC.AbandonedWreckedVessels-Bateauxabandonnesepaves.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.AbandonedWreckedVessels-Bateauxabandonnesepaves.TC@tc.gc.ca)

## Coastal Environmental Baseline Program

### Protecting Marine Mammals

- Work continues to address threats to marine mammals, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW)
- Specific investments towards understanding and mitigating the SRKW's three main threats: underwater noise, prey availability and contaminants in the marine environment



# Engaging British Columbians – What we've heard

- Build on existing meetings where possible, reduce engagement fatigue
- Greater representation and engagement of the fishing industry, remote communities
- Participants seeking clarity on how their input will be used
- Participants seeking clarity on how funding can be accessed



# Engaging British Columbians – Update & Next Steps

- Fall 2017 forum and indigenous engagement workshop reports completed
- Seeking participation in the development of future forums – let us know via the engagement survey and/or our online website
- Pacific OPP Forum collaboration website to launch this month



# Questions & Contacts

For more information:

Lorraine Gill, Transport Canada

[Lorraine.gill@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Lorraine.gill@tc.gc.ca)

Katherine Beavis, Transport Canada

[Katherine.beavis@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Katherine.beavis@tc.gc.ca)

