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Oceans protection plan overview

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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?

In partnership with...
- Indigenous Groups

And collaboration with...
- Scientific Community
- Other Stakeholders
- Marine Industry
- Local Communities
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.
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

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

**Pilotage Act Review**
- Launched in 2017
- Next Step: review findings & seek final advice from Indigenous groups and stakeholders in March 2018
- 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
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
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

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

Update: Preserving & Restoring Marine Ecosystems
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

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