Federal Initiatives: Oceans Protection Plan

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SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session is focused on several initiatives under Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan.

The Oceans Protection Plan highlights the Canadian Government’s new direction on marine safety and shipping, one dedicated to ensuring marine shipping takes place in a manner that protects our environment while generating economic growth. It is backed by the largest investment ever made in our oceans - $1.5 billion dollars, and will focus on four priority areas:

- A world-leading marine safety system, which will improve how we prevent and respond to marine incidents
- Protecting the marine environment by preserving and restoring marine ecosystems
- Strengthening Indigenous partnerships; and
- Investing in science and local knowledge to produce a stronger evidence base

The implementation of the Oceans Protection Plan will involve a whole-of-government strategy led by four federal departments. These federal departments will be working collaboratively with the marine industry, local communities, and other stakeholders. By creating regional partnerships with Indigenous and local communities, the Government of Canada looks for their cooperation and for them to play an active role in decisions about marine safety.

For issues that transcend national boundaries, such as the many vessels that use our shared Salish Sea, including some vessels that serve the Port of Vancouver, we recognize the need for partnership and collaboration with our American partners. Where appropriate, we look forward to working together as we deliver over 50 initiatives as part of the Oceans Protection Plan.

The session will begin with an overview presentation of the Oceans Protection Plan, followed by presentations on the Maritime Awareness Information System, Regional Response and Canadian Coast Guard initiatives and Oil spill preparedness planning.

90 min overall: Please limit presentations to 15 minutes each, to allow enough time for discussion at end

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