Oceans Protection Plan

Legislative Amendments


Overview

The Canada Shipping Act, 2001 governs the safety of marine transportation, environmental damage, health and safety on board vessels, inspection and enforcement, and international obligations. The amendments:

- **Strengthen marine environmental protection** by enhancing our ability to create regulations that protect marine environments, and enabling the Minister to issue orders to quickly address environmental or marine safety risks.
- **Improve environmental response** by strengthening and clarifying the Canadian Coast Guard's authority to intervene in ship-source pollution incidents earlier, faster and more effectively.
- **Enhance deterrence and enforcement** by increasing maximum administrative monetary penalties to $250,000 per infraction.
- **Support research and innovation** through temporary exemptions that foster research to improve marine safety and environmental protection.

The Marine Liability Act governs the liability of ship owners for pollution damage, passengers, cargo and private property. The amendments modernize the Ship-Source Oil Pollution Fund by:

- Removing the per-incident limit for compensation, so eligible claims are fully compensated.
- Enabling faster, easier access to compensation, using a fast-track process for small claims.
- Providing emergency funding in the event of a significant oil spill from a ship.

Why are these amendments important?

Canada relies on safe, clean coasts and waters for trade, economic growth and quality of life. This includes respecting traditions and cultures surrounding the oceans. These legislative amendments help ensure safe and environmentally responsible shipping in Canada. They strengthen our ability to protect marine environments and enhance marine safety.

What’s next?

We are committed to working with Indigenous groups, coastal communities and stakeholders to advance the Oceans Protection Plan. As we advance regulatory work, you will have opportunities to share your views on the draft regulations.

Amending legislation 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 will improve marine safety and responsible shipping, protect Canada’s marine environment and help advance Indigenous reconciliation.

www.canada.ca/protecting-our-coasts