Oceans Protection Plan

Marine Weather Information Services

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a long and proud history of providing marine forecasts to mariners who rely on this important information to safely navigate through Canada’s ports and waterways. The Marine Weather Information Services Initiative improves this service with more detailed and precise information to mariners, giving them the ability to make informed decisions about weather conditions that could affect their safety, security, operations and route.

Better Marine Weather Forecasts

Currently ECCC produces a two-day forecast and a five-day outlook for winds, weather and sea conditions. Info from five at-sea weather buoys and advanced models will enhance the forecasts and give mariners information like:

- Short-term forecasts of wind speeds
- Wind direction
- Wave height

New Weather Buoys

We asked mariners and key stakeholders from coast to coast to choose areas for the initiative. We also looked at how islands, narrow channels, submerged ridges, banks and bars affect the movement of ships. Based on this information, we are installing new weather buoys in:

- The Southern Georgia Strait – West Coast
- In the approaches to the Port of Metro Vancouver – West Coast
- The Strait of Canso (two buoys) – East Coast
- The Bay of Fundy – East Coast

The Government of Canada’s Approach to Marine Safety

The Marine Weather Information Services Initiative complements Oceans Protection Plan projects from the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). The CHS is surveying different bodies of water to measure and describe their physical features, like depth and flow. The CCG is looking at what navigation aids and technologies could help mariners. Together, these projects provide a safer environment for mariners.