Oceans Protection Plan
Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping

Background

Through the Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada is working with Indigenous peoples, local stakeholders and coastal communities to understand the effects of vessel traffic on coastal environments. Engagement continues across the country and online www.letstalktransportation.ca.

A shared approach

The desired outcome of this initiative is to enhance knowledge of the cumulative impacts and stressors of shipping on marine environments. The approach involves developing a collaborative framework and testing methods that will help create meaningful relationships and share input from all interested parties throughout the process.

Next steps

Together, we will identify key concerns and collaborate to collect environmental and vessel information from six pilot sites from across Canada. These sites represent various current and projected marine shipping activity and coastal environment types:

- Northern British Columbia
- Southern British Columbia
- St. Lawrence River, Quebec
- Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick
- South Coast Newfoundland
- Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

Results

- Developing a national cumulative effects assessment framework for marine shipping.
- Collecting and bringing together existing data such as marine vessel movements and environmental, cultural, and Indigenous use data that will support evidence based decision making.
- Identifying potential tools and strategies that can be applied to mitigate the effects of existing or future vessel movements on the marine environment.

The Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping initiative 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 is improving marine safety and responsible shipping, protecting Canada’s marine environment and helping to advance Indigenous reconciliation.

www.canada.ca/protecting-our-coasts