

OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

Quebec Standing Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety February 9, 2018



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

RDIMS 13754238

Canada

Background

Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and coastal communities, depend on the oceans surrounding them, and in Quebec, more specifically, on the St. Lawrence River and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Protecting Canada's coastal areas and marine ecosystems is essential, both for the economy and the environment.

Commercial fishing in Quebec:

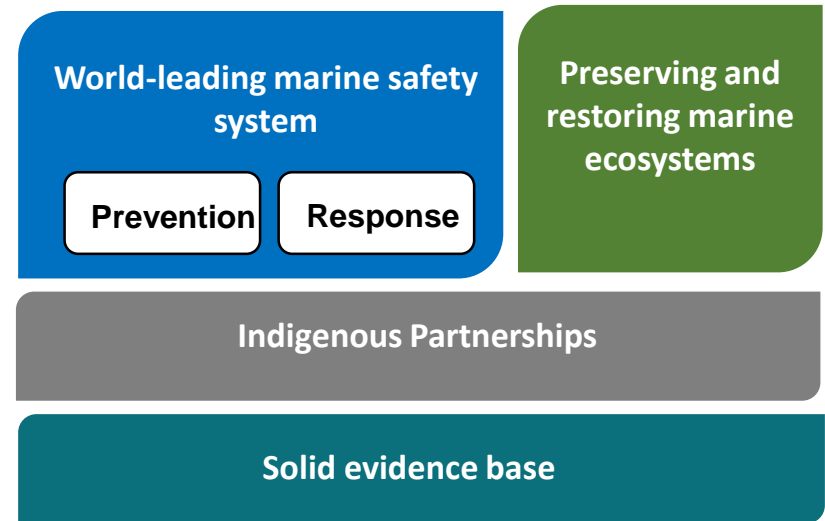
- 941 fishing businesses
- 1,221 fishing vessels
- Total landed value in 2017: \$352M



What is the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP)?

A national five-year \$1.5 billion plan aimed at:

- improving marine safety and responsible shipping;
- protecting Canada's marine environment;
- strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities;
- investing in science to ensure evidence-based decision making.



How is the Oceans Protection Plan organized?



Oceans Protection Plan initiatives



**World-leading marine safety system
(Prevention)**



**World-leading marine safety system
(Response)**



**Preserving and restoring marine
ecosystems**



**Partnerships with Indigenous
communities**



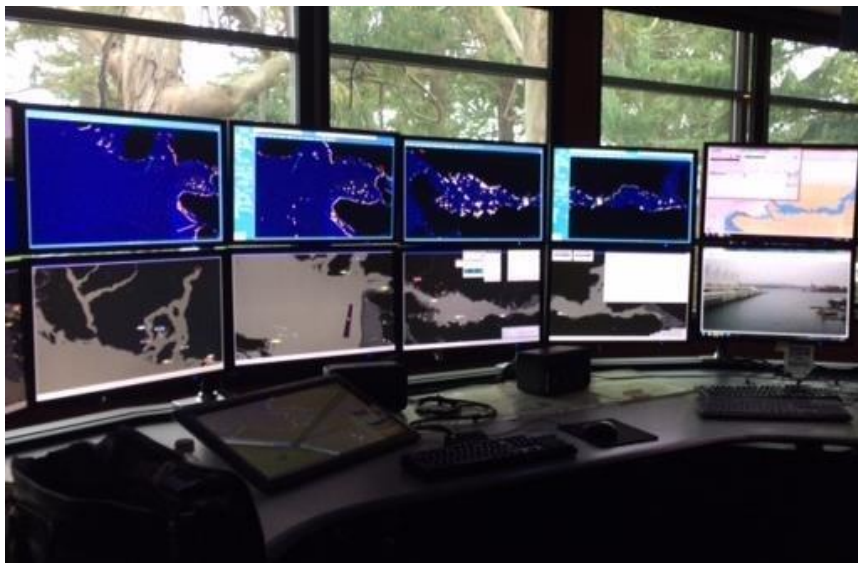
Solid evidence base

- More than 50 initiatives will be launched.
- The initiatives are varied and diverse.
- Several involve more than one department at a time.
- Several are interrelated.
- It is a complex environment—we are using a variety of methods to mobilize and engage stakeholders.



World-leading marine safety system (prevention)

- Real-time marine traffic information for coastal communities;
- Review of the *Pilotage Act*;
- Training and staffing in Marine Communications and Traffic Services centres across Canada;
- Modern nautical charts from the Canadian Hydrological Service.





World-leading marine safety system (response)

- 24/7 emergency response capability;
- New search and rescue vessels and stations;
- Increased Canadian Coast Guard towing capability;
- Enhanced role of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary;
- Planning of regional marine pollution response.





Preserving and restoring marine ecosystems

- Assessment of the cumulative effects of marine shipping;
- Protection of aquatic ecosystems;
- New Coastal Restoration Fund to help communities and local groups restore coastal areas and ecosystems at risk.





Preserving and restoring marine ecosystems

Marine mammals

- The Government of Canada has committed to mitigating the threats caused by marine traffic to marine mammals, including three species of endangered whales: the North Atlantic right whale, the southern resident killer whale and the St. Lawrence Estuary beluga whale.
- On January 11, 2018, TC lifted the speed restriction in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, put in place since August 2017, aimed at protecting the right whale.
- Measures for snow crab fishers announced on January 23, 2018 to protect the right whale.





Preserving and restoring marine ecosystems

Marine mammals

- The Government of Canada continues to work with its partners, scientific experts, industry, environmental groups and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a global approach to ensure the protection of marine mammals in the medium and long term.
- **Right whales:** Discussions are currently underway to establish the protection measures necessary for the 2018 season, while also minimizing the impacts on industry.





Preserving and restoring marine ecosystems

Abandoned and wrecked vessels

- Implementation of a strategy to enable the Government of Canada to take on a leadership role in preventing the appearance of new abandoned vessels and cleaning up existing ones.
 - Introduction of a new act
 - Improved owner identification and creation of a clean-up fund
- Support for the removal of small vessels in Canadian waters, including those in small craft harbours managed by Fisheries & Oceans Canada.





Partnerships with Indigenous communities

- Indigenous coastal communities have had a connection to Canada's oceans for generations.
- The oceans provide a source of subsistence, food security and important transportation routes.
- The Government of Canada is committed to collaborating and establishing partnerships with Indigenous communities as part of the OPP.





Partnerships with Indigenous communities: Meaningful partnerships

- **Concrete activities**

- Collaboration on local marine traffic issues
- Indigenous chapters of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Indigenous community boats volunteer program
- Community response teams
- Training in search and rescue, environmental controls and spill response
- Northern marine transportation corridors

- **Enabling activities**

- Training
- Awareness
- Leveraging Indigenous traditional knowledge





Solid evidence base

- Scientific research on spill response technologies;
- Studying the behaviour of petroleum products in water;
- Assessing the impact of underwater noise from vessels on marine mammals.



Questions

- In your opinion, what are the priority OPP issues and initiatives?
- Do you have any ideas or suggestions to support the OPP initiatives?



Thank you for your time!

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