



OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE MEASURES

WORLD-LEADING MARINE SAFETY SYSTEM

Canada's Ocean Protection Plan is designed to create a world-leading marine safety system that will protect our coasts and waterways. This means improving how we prevent and respond to marine pollution incidents.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE

The Alternative Response Measures initiative will allow the Government of Canada to create a world-leading response system by expanding the range of response options available for ship-source oil spills.

Canada's current approach to managing ship-source oil spills focuses on containing and collecting the oil using mechanical measures such as booms and skimmers. Other techniques may be more effective depending on environmental conditions such as rough seas.

A net environmental benefit analysis weighs the advantages and disadvantages of available options when choosing the best way to protect the environment and other important resources.

The careful and appropriate use of alternative response measures is aimed at reducing the overall impact of an oil spill on the environment and other important resources (e.g. fisheries). The tools available under this new initiative may be used when there is likely to be a net environmental benefit.

WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE MEASURES?

Alternative response measures include techniques like burning the oil; and tools like dispersants that reduce the concentration of oil while supporting natural processes to break down the oil. These tools provide enhanced oil spill response options to better protect the environment and other important resources and have been used successfully in responding to major spills elsewhere in the world.

When used appropriately, alternative response measures will better protect the environment and other important resources in the event of an oil spill in water from the impacts of the spill, in addition to current mechanical measures.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Government of Canada will be engaging Indigenous peoples and stakeholders.

The Government of Canada is working on a legal and operational framework, supported by science, to allow the use of alternative response measures as possible response options.

More information about this initiative, including opportunities to engage Canadian will be provided as the Oceans Protection Plan continues to be rolled out.

The Alternative Response Measures initiative is another action that the Government of Canada is taking to protect Canada's coasts and waterways. The Government is investing \$1.5 billion in the Oceans Protection Plan, a national strategy to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting our coastlines and waterways for future generations.