

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ON BC'S SOUTH COAST

The Government of Canada welcomes Indigenous communities* who fish, harvest or practise other cultural activities on BC's South Coast to get involved in the following federal programs and initiatives that are improving marine safety and environmental protection in the region.

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING

- Co-Developing Community Response
- Community Participation Funding Program
- Planning for Integrated Environmental Response

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND RESEARCH

- Oceans Protection Plan
- Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund
- Salish Sea Initiative
- Marine Spatial Planning

SAFETY AND ACCESS ON THE WATER

- Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness
- Marine Safety Equipment and Training
- Office of Boating Safety
- Boating Safety Contribution Program

PROTECTION AND RECOVERY OF SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

- Whales Initiative
- Traffic Separation Scheme Feasibility Study
- Recovery Measures
- Quiet Vessel Initiative

*For information and eligibility, please contact departments directly

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND RESEARCH

The [Oceans Protection Plan \(OPP\)](#) is making Canada's marine safety system stronger, and our coasts and marine species better protected. Built on science, technology and traditional knowledge, the Oceans Protection Plan includes over 50 marine safety, research and ecosystem initiatives from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The Plan strengthens our relationships with Indigenous and coastal communities by providing them with a stronger role in protecting Canada's coasts. (Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natural Resources Canada)

Through the Oceans Protection Plan's [Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping \(CEMS\)](#) Initiative, Canada is working with Indigenous peoples, local stakeholders and coastal communities to study the potential effects of marine shipping on the environment and coastal communities. As part of this Initiative, Transport Canada is working with Indigenous partners and stakeholders in six pilot areas across Canada, which includes the south coast of BC, to identify options for addressing these effects. The CEMS initiative may also assess safety and access on the water. (Transport Canada)

Through the [Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund \(AHRF\)](#), we are collaborating with Indigenous groups to develop a five-year initiative that will provide funding for community capacity and Indigenous-led aquatic habitat restoration activities in freshwater and marine ecosystems. Activities will occur in the Fraser River Watershed and inland watersheds along the Trans Mountain pipeline corridor in British Columbia and Alberta, as well as along the shipping corridor and the Salish Sea. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

The [Salish Sea Initiative \(SSI\)](#) is an accommodation measure that was approved as part of the reconsideration of the TMX project. SSI supports eligible First Nations in increasing their administrative, technical, and scientific capacity. SSI also supports the Nations in marine stewardship activities to address Nations' concerns around cumulative effects of human activities on Valued Components of the marine ecosystem in the Nations' Territories. Another component of SSI is a long-term fund to support First Nations' activities after SSI is finished in 2024. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

[Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#) in the South Coast of British Columbia is a process led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada that brings together relevant authorities including federal and provincial governments, and Indigenous communities and organizations, to coordinate the human use of marine spaces to achieve ecological, economic, cultural, and social objectives. The process is currently in the initial stages of pre-planning (Phase I). Key elements of MSP include: integrated science, knowledge, and data; governance structures and arrangements; and spatial analysis/planning. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

SAFETY AND ACCESS ON THE WATER

The [Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness \(EMSA\)](#) Initiative improves access to maritime information and data, including vessel traffic for Indigenous communities and other partners. The web-based, geographic information system provides an accessible and near real-time common operating picture for coastal communities to support local and collaborative planning, analysis and decision-making. The Initiative was launched as a pilot project under the Oceans Protections Plan and expanded as an accommodation measure for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. (Transport Canada)

The [Marine Safety Equipment and Training \(MSET\)](#) Initiative provides funding for equipment and training to eligible Indigenous communities to improve vessel safety and build an understanding of safety on the water. As an accommodation measure for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, funding is targeted to Indigenous communities along the Project's marine shipping route. (Transport Canada)

As part of the Trans Mountain Project, the [Office of Boating Safety \(OBS\)](#) has expanded to increase local boating safety awareness. The Office of Boating Safety provides education and outreach to pleasure craft, fishing vessel operators, small commercial vessel operators, and Indigenous coastal and near-coastal communities. (Transport Canada)

The [Boating Safety Contribution Program \(BSCP\)](#) provides financial support to organizations that do any of the following: raise public awareness about boating safety for both recreational boating and commercial fishing; advance knowledge of boating safety issues, practices and behaviours in Canada, and support regulatory compliance. (Transport Canada)

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING

[Co-Developing Community Response \(CDCR\)](#) is an accommodation measure that was approved as part of the reconsideration of the TMX project. The measure was designed to improve Indigenous communities' abilities to participate in oil spill preparedness and response and marine incident management. Funding will build on Canada's existing environmental response system by giving communities along the route knowledge, personnel, training and equipment to protect culturally-important and sacred sites within traditional territories. The funding will also help communities manage risks of TMX project-related shipping, and define a clear role for Indigenous communities in the broader marine response system. (Canadian Coast Guard)

The Oceans Protection Plan's [Community Participation Funding Program \(CPFP\)](#) provides funding to eligible Indigenous groups and local communities to participate in the improvement of Canada's marine transportation system. Recipients are encouraged to contribute their knowledge of local conditions and the environment to federal marine transportation in the development of strategies and policies that may impact their daily activities. (Transport Canada)

Under the [Planning for Integrated Environmental Response \(PIER\)](#) initiative, the Coast Guard will work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada to plan the response to marine incidents on BC's coasts. This will create a more integrated marine safety system by:

- working with Indigenous communities, all levels of government, industry, fire and police organizations and port or harbour authorities to develop Coast Guard area response plans
- collecting information on marine sensitivities, socio-economic activities and Indigenous knowledge to support evidence-based response plans and incident response (Canadian Coast Guard)

PROTECTION AND RECOVERY OF SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

Building from the Oceans Protection Plan, Canada's [Whales Initiative](#) identifies and applies measures to support the survival and recovery of endangered whale populations in Canada, specifically Southern Resident killer whales, North Atlantic right whales, and the St. Lawrence Estuary beluga. (Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada)

The Whales Initiative's [Traffic Separation Scheme Feasibility Study](#) is assessing potential changes to Traffic Separation Scheme(s) to reduce the impacts of physical and acoustic disturbances from vessels on Southern Resident killer whales. (Transport Canada)

Management [measures to protect Southern Resident killer whales](#) are in place to limit physical and acoustic disturbances from vessels and improve prey availability in 2019 and in 2020. The Government of Canada chose these measures in consultation with Indigenous groups, marine stakeholders, environmental groups, and scientists, and continues to do so for any future measures. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Parks Canada)

The [Quiet Vessel Initiative \(QVI\)](#) is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to address vessel noise in the Salish Sea in order to protect the marine environment and vulnerable marine mammals – including the Southern Resident killer whale. This initiative is testing the most promising, safe and efficient quiet-vessel designs, retrofits and operational practices to achieve noise reductions. Canada is engaging with Indigenous communities about quiet vessel technologies through this initiative. This initiative is an accommodation measure for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. (Transport Canada)

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