

Virtual Initiative Spotlights Schedule

2025 Oceans Protection Plan Pacific Dialogue Forum

This fall, Transport Canada will host Virtual Initiative Spotlights every other Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT on Microsoft Teams. These sessions, part of the Pacific Marine Dialogue Forum, will provide updates on the Oceans Protection Plan and related initiatives to First Nations, coastal communities, industry, NGOs, academia, and all levels of government.

For the most up-to-date schedule, please refer to the online version. Sessions may change; avoid downloading the document to ensure access to the latest information.

September 18, 2025	Environment and Climate Change Canada's Shoreline Trainings
October 02, 2025	Multi-Partner Research Initiative: Advancing Indigenous Engagement in Oil Spill Response Research
October 16, 2025	An Update on the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) Initiative in the South Coast of British Columbia
October 30, 2025	Potential Regulations to Increase Access to Marine Emergency Services and Improve Response to Pollution Incidents
November 13, 2025	Recovery from Ship-source Marine Oil Spills
November 27, 2025	TBD
December 11, 2025	Understanding Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution from Ships and Boats

Tip: Scroll down for session descriptions and presenter bios.



September 18, 2025 - Environment and Climate Change Canada's Shoreline Trainings

Sharing Information

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, Local Communities, North Coast, South Coast, Industry, Government

Following a spill, if there is reason to believe that shorelines have been or may be impacted, a Shoreline Response Program (SRP) is initiated. The SRP lays out the process of decision making and information flow related to shoreline activities during a response, while Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) surveys provide systematic in-field shoreline oiling information. This presentation introduces ECCC's 1-day SRP Workshop and 3-day SCAT Course, outlining their core content and intended audiences.

Presenters

Morgan Sadler

Environmental Emergencies Officer

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Morgan Sadler has a background in contaminated sites and hydrogeology. As an Environmental Emergencies Officer with ECCC, she helps to deliver scientific and technical advice and support responses to spill events.

October 02, 2025 - Multi-Partner Research Initiative: Advancing Indigenous Engagement in Oil Spill Response Research

Sharing Information

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, Local Communities, North Coast, South Coast, Industry, Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, Government

Natural Resources Canada's Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI) is a program that aims to improve oil spill response knowledge, tools, and techniques to support evidence-based decisions to minimize the environmental impacts of oil spills and enhance habitat recovery in Canada's coastal and aquatic environments. The initiative gathers leading researchers and knowledge holders to identify and prioritize the key research areas to be addressed on the fate, behaviour, potential impacts and mitigation/remediation of oil spills.

Indigenous Peoples have been safeguarding waters across Canada for generations. Thus, their partnership in spill research, preparedness and decision-making is critical to protect the coasts and waterways. To develop a more effective and inclusive oil spill preparedness and response regime for Canada, MPRI is working to build relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, knowledge holders, responders, and decision-makers to foster spill response research and tool/technique advancement activities that bridge, braid, or weave Indigenous and Western science knowledge systems. This presentation will discuss MPRI's efforts to integrate Indigenous knowledge systems in oil spill response research, with a focus on the projects funded under our Indigenous Research Stream.

Presenters

Lisa Isaacman

*Science Policy and Planning Officer
Natural Resources Canada*

Lisa has been a Science Policy and Planning Officer with the MPRI at NRCan since late 2022. Prior to that she was a Policy Analyst with the MPRI at Fisheries and Oceans Canada for 3 years. In addition to the federal government, Lisa has worked in academia and non-profit organizations supporting environmental protection, including watershed and wetlands conservation, habitat conservation planning, marine renewable energy, species at risk, and currently oil spill response science.

Lisa currently lives in Halifax, NS. In her spare time, she likes easy hiking and volunteering for animal rescue and environmental causes.

Anika Altiman

*Policy Analyst
Natural Resources Canada*

Anika Altiman is an Anishinaabe woman from Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong Unceded Territory). With a background in education (BASc, BEd, MEd) and a passion for community-based research, her experiences have aligned with collaborative efforts to build capacity, amplify voices, and address gaps within First Nation education, health, and governance. She is grateful for the research relationships over the last 25 years and looks forward to continued conversations, spaces, and collective action filled with trust, honesty, kindness, wisdom, and love. Anika joined Natural Resources Canada in 2023 as a Policy Analyst with the Multi-Partner Research Initiative. Outside of MPRI, she is a proud mother of four, and serves her community as an elected councillor.



Diana Chan

Natural Resource Manager

Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department

Diana Chan supports a number of files to advance the Nations's marine stewardship efforts with an emphasis on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Elise DeCola

General Manager and Principal Consultant

Nuka Research

Elise is an experienced project manager who has been working with Coastal First Nations, BC and Canada partners for several years to develop collaborative plans and policy for marine incident management and response. She has worked extensively with First Nations and other Indigenous communities in Canada and the US to foster resilience through participatory planning. She is the project manager for the CFN-GBI MPRI Initiative "Building oil spill response and Environmental Unit decision-support tools that incorporate BC First Nations' knowledge, traditions, laws, and priorities."

Iwan Ball

Marine Project Specialist

Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative

Iwan has been with CFN-GBI for 8 years and is responsible for supporting Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB) First Nations' engagement on a number of initiatives under the Reconciliation Framework Agreement (RFA) and Oceans Protection Plan (OPP), including marine incident management and response. Iwan is the Project Team Coordinator for the MPRI project and fills a similar role as the coordinator for both Tier 1 (First Nation-to-First Nation) and Tier 2 (First Nation to other governments) working groups in the NSB.

Katarina Duke

Manager of Marine Conservation & Fisheries

Ka:yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations

Katarina (Kat) is a Professional Agrologist; however, she prefers to call herself an aquatics enthusiast. In her role, Kat deals with everything and anything in the water (fresh or marine) but always seeks ways to gear initiatives to support holistic well-being of the community. While working, Kat is also completing her PhD in Water Resources to support water sovereignty for KCFN. Outside work and school, Kat keeps busy with her four dogs (that's right, four), her tortoise (not a turtle, but a tortoise) and her husband at their acreage in Shawnigan Lake.

October 16, 2025 - An Update on the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) Initiative in the South Coast of British Columbia

Sharing Information

Building Awareness of Future Engagements

Setting the Stage for an In-Person Session

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, South Coast, Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, Government

Transport Canada's Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) Initiative, under the Oceans Protection Plan has been working to develop a shared, collaborative approach to better understand coastal ecosystems and the potential impacts of regional marine vessel activities on the environment and surrounding communities. This initiative has been active in the South Coast of BC, focusing on enhancing the understanding of the cumulative effects from marine vessel activities. It emphasizes strengthened collaboration and partnerships between the federal government, First Nations, coastal communities, marine stakeholders, and other interested parties.

Key topics will include:

- Context setting for CEMS in South Coast BC.
- The collaborative approach with interested South Coast First Nations.
- An overview of the cumulative effects assessment methodology.
- A summary of the assessment results.
- Next steps (2025/26) – The Decision-Making Phase: Exploring potential management strategies; opportunities for external parties to share information and provide feedback related to proposed, new, current or planned strategies to reduce cumulative effects of marine vessel activities in South Coast BC.

Presenters

Paula Doucette

*Regional Manager, OPP – Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping, Pacific & Arctic Regions
Transport Canada*

Paula Doucette is the Regional Manager for Pacific and Arctic regions for the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping Initiative under Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan. Paula has been responsible for conducting regional assessment and engagement activities as part of the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping Initiative since 2017. Prior to this, Paula conducted impact assessments on behalf of Transport Canada and DFO.

Lauren McNeilly

*Program Manager, Habitat and Environmental Protections
First Nations Fisheries Council*

Over the past two years, Lauren has worked for the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC), primarily focusing on coordinating Tier 1 and Tier 2 engagement sessions relating to Wave 3 of DFO's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program and the draft Restoration Priorities Plan for the Pacific Region. Lauren joined the south coast

Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping team in the Spring of 2025 during the tail-end of the assessment phase and is looking forward to continuing to support the team through the decision-making phase this Fall and Winter. Prior to working at FNFC, Lauren's experience included various roles in ecological monitoring and restoration, environmental outreach and education, and salmon enhancement, primarily in the lower Fraser region of BC.

October 30, 2025 - Potential Regulations to Increase Access to Marine Emergency Services and Improve Response to Pollution Incidents

Sharing Information

Seeking Feedback

Fulfilling Engagement Requirements

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, Local Communities, North Coast, South Coast, Industry, Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations

Following changes to the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 completed in 2023 to strengthen marine safety and environmental protection, Transport Canada has launched work to develop new rules and processes in a few areas. This includes considering requirements for some vessels to have arrangements in place for certain marine emergency services, hazardous and noxious substances preparedness and response including response plan requirements for vessels and handling facilities and introducing the role of a response coordinator to help implement vessel pollution emergency plans.

Transport Canada published its first discussion paper which remained online for feedback from October 2024 until January 2025 and conducted engagement sessions across Canada during this period. Upon receiving feedback, Transport Canada has developed a second discussion paper that offers more proposal details based on input and ongoing analysis. We will be doing more engagement to seek input from coastal communities, Indigenous peoples, and marine sector stakeholders. Input received will help us to further develop details for the proposed regulations.

Presenter

Brent Hardy

*Policy Advisor - Oceans Protection Plan Strategic and Regulatory Affairs
Transport Canada*

Brent Hardy is a policy advisor at Transport Canada with the Oceans Protection Plan Strategic and Regulatory Affairs team. He helps to advance legislative and regulatory initiatives under the Oceans Protection Plan. He supported Canada Shipping Act, 2001 amendments completed in 2023 and is currently supporting subsequent regulatory development respecting access to marine emergency services and improving response to pollution incidents.

November 13, 2025 - Recovery from Ship-source Marine Oil Spills

Sharing Information

Seeking Feedback

Building Awareness of Future Engagements

Setting the Stage for an In-Person Session

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, Local Communities, North Coast, South Coast, Industry, Government

ECCC is currently leading the development of the Recovery Framework for ship-source marine oil spills. The Recovery Framework will guide efforts by the federal government, in consultation with provinces and territories, Indigenous communities, industry, and other partners, to minimize the long-term consequences of marine oil spills by monitoring and addressing long-term impacts and supporting the return of affected areas to a healthy state within a well-functioning ecosystem.

Building on previous discussions at both our virtual session last December and the South Coast Forum in Winter 2025, this session will delve deeper into the core functions and activities that the government of Canada believes necessary for recovery following a ship-sourced marine oil spill based upon our current progress. It will also focus on how the transition between response and recovery could be articulated within the framework.

Presenters

Stuart Lee

*Manager-Policy and Preparedness
Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Stuart Lee is the manager of the Policy and Preparedness team of the Environmental Emergencies Division at ECCC. His academic training has been in natural and social sciences, with some post-doctoral work on the interplay of Indigenous Knowledge systems on Western resource management.

His career has been mainly within ECCC, and has focused on topics where science meets policy, such as the ecosystem effects of GMOs, monitoring systems to understand the cumulative effects of oil sands development, environmental and impact assessment policy, and now leads files that support ECCC's continuing policy development in various aspects of Emergency Management.

Melanie Erazola

*Senior Environmental Emergency Officer
Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Melanie has a bachelor's degree in geography with a master's degree in environmental management. As a Senior Environmental Emergency Officer, she has worked for over 15 years in the field of spills and emergency management and environmental impacts. She has responded to several incidents in Canada as an Environmental Emergencies Officer and as a Geomatics Officer, including in the British Columbia region. She is now contributing to the development of the Recovery initiative at ECCC's National Environmental Emergencies Centre.

Andrew Labaj

Senior Policy Advisor

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Andrew is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Environmental Emergencies Policy team at Environment and Climate Change Canada.

November 27, 2025 - (TBD)

TBD

Presenters

TBD

December 11, 2025 - Understanding Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution from Ships and Boats

Sharing Information

Building Awareness of Future Engagements

Target Audience: Indigenous Groups, Local Communities, North Coast, South Coast, Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, Government

If a ship or boat spills or threatens to spill oil into Canadian waters, those affected don't have to bear the cost of damages, losses, and response efforts. Instead, they are entitled to compensation from the Ship Fund.

Our session will begin with an overview of the current scope of Canada's marine liability and compensation regime and the legislative framework regarding pollution in the Marine Liability Act. After this, we will provide information on the types of damages the Ship Fund compensates, claimant eligibility, the documentation required, as well as the deadlines for submitting claims. The Ship Fund covers all types of ships and boats, including abandoned or derelict vessels as well as "mystery" spills, where there is no identifiable shipowner to sue.

Presenters

Joel Fryer

Policy Advisor, International Marine Policy

Transport Canada

Joel Fryer is a senior policy advisor with over eighteen years of marine policy experience at Transport Canada, working in a mix of economic, trade, and liability and compensation issues. He has specialized expertise in

Protection & Indemnity and 3rd party marine insurance issues, particularly as it relates to pollution. Joel has played a key role in advancing Canadian sanctions in the marine sector and the implementation of the Hazardous and Noxious Substances Convention in Canada.

Ryan Gauvin

Legal Counsel

Ship and Rail Compensation Canada - Ship Fund

Ryan is a maritime lawyer and has been with the Ship Fund since 2018.

He holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History from the University of British Columbia. As Legal Counsel, he advises the Ship Fund's Administrator on decisions relating to the compensation of claimants. His work also includes pursuing financial recovery from liable shipowners and their insurers, often in the Federal Court.

