



# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN ANCHORAGES INITIATIVE

## WHAT IS THE ANCHORAGES INITIATIVE?

As a trading nation, Canada needs an efficient marine transportation system. This system includes anchorages in and near Canada's busy ports.

Port Authorities assign and manage anchorages **within their boundaries**. However, when a port's anchorages and terminals are full, vessels must anchor elsewhere until space becomes available.

Ships in Canadian waters must adhere to safety and security rules and procedures (including light, noise, ballast waters, etc.) at all times. However, the Government of Canada has no formal process by which to identify anchorages and guide the behaviour of vessels anchored outside port boundaries.

**Dialogue with stakeholders and Indigenous groups will be essential to the success of the Anchorages initiative.**

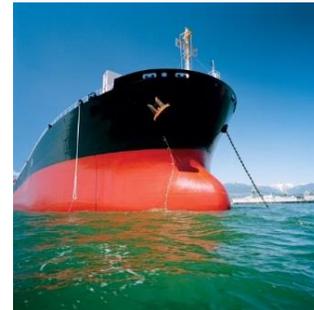
The Anchorages initiative will engage governments, marine industry, Indigenous groups, community organizations and stakeholders to:

- Develop a process to identify anchorage spots;
- Analyse and respond to environmental, economic, cultural, safety and security concerns now and over the long term;
- Draft a "best practices at anchor" manual; and
- Propose oversight/management options for anchorage spots outside port authority's boundaries.

## A BACKGROUND ON ANCHORAGES

As a general rule of maritime law, masters are responsible for ensuring the safety of their vessels. This includes selecting an anchorage appropriate for the prevailing conditions.

Port Authorities establish commercial shipping anchorages based on the quality of their anchor-holding ground, shelter from high winds, and proximity to shipping routes and port logistics. These criteria ensure the safety of vessels and their crew and the safety of other users of the waters.



Port Authorities formally identify and approve anchorages to ensure adequate distance between vessels. When assigning an anchorage within port boundaries, they take into account multiple factors, such as the length and draft of a vessel and the reason for needing an anchorage.

*The right to anchor a vessel is part of the common law right of navigation. A vessel is free to anchor temporarily and for a reasonable period of time in any appropriate location, unless specifically prohibited by statute or regulation.*

For additional information, please email us at:  
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The Anchorages initiative is another action that 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 to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting our coastlines for future generations.