



# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

## ADDRESSING ABANDONED AND WRECKED VESSELS IN CANADA

Abandoned and wrecked vessels can pollute the marine environment, disrupt local tourism and fisheries, damage ports and harbours, interfere with navigation, and pose safety risks to Canadians.

On November 7, 2016, the Government of Canada announced a comprehensive national strategy to address abandoned and wrecked vessels in Canadian waters.



### WHAT WE ARE DOING

The national strategy focuses on both prevention and removal:

1. In October 2017, we introduced the *Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act* (Bill C-64) in Parliament. Once passed, this bill will prohibit vessel owners from abandoning their boats. It will also make owners liable for costs to clean up and remove their vessels and wrecks, and enable the government to take action on problem vessels before they become more costly to Canadians.
2. We launched two short-term funding programs to help remove and dispose of small boats:
  - Abandoned Boats Program (\$6.85 million over 5 years)
  - Small Craft Harbours Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels Removal Program (\$1.325 million over 5 years)

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The national strategy to address abandoned vessels and wrecks will reduce the number of vessels that pose hazards in Canadian waters, hold owners accountable for their vessels and help preserve and restore marine ecosystems.

3. We are also working to improve the pleasure craft licensing and the commercial vessel registration systems to ensure we can identify boat owners and hold them responsible for their boat throughout its life, including its proper disposal.
4. We are exploring options for long-term funding to remove large and small abandoned and wrecked vessels. This will reduce the burden on Canadians and their communities.
5. We are developing a national inventory of problem vessels and a risk assessment process to help us prioritize and determine how to handle these vessels.
6. Finally, Canada is taking steps to bring the *Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007* into force in Canada through Bill C-64. Once the Convention takes effect, owners of large commercial ships (of 300 gross tonnes and above) will be required to have insurance to cover potential costs of locating, marking and removing a wreck. All ship owners will be liable for hazardous wrecks due to marine incidents.

For more information on the strategy, please visit: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/abandoned-boats-wrecks-4454.html>

The national strategy to address abandoned and wrecked vessels 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 to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting our coastlines for future generations.