### **OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN**

### National Strategy to Address Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels

Presentation to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)

April 14, 2018

Transport Canada Canadian Coast Guard Fisheries and Oceans Canada





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#### Purpose

Provide an overview of the National Strategy to Address Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels\* under the \$1.5 billion five-year Oceans Protection Plan



\* Covers both large and small vessels

### The issue is complex



Objectives of the National Strategy



To reduce the number of abandoned and wrecked vessels in Canadian waters by:



Preventing the occurrence of <u>new</u> problem vessels



Making progress in cleaning up <u>existing</u> problem vessels

## 5 Key Measures under the National Strategy



New legislation: Bill C-64, the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act



**Enhance vessel owner identification** 



Short-term funding for: clean up of existing smaller vessels and wrecks; education and awareness; and research on boat recycling and design



Long-term owner-financed funds to address abandoned and wrecked vessels



National inventory of problem vessels with risk assessment methodology

## Bill C-64: Legislation Objectives



## Bill C-64: Highlights

Strengthen Vessel Owner Liability	<ul> <li>Makes owners responsible for all vessel/wreck clean-up costs</li> <li>Makes owners liable for locating and marking wrecks that are a result of a maritime casualty, and removing them if deemed a hazard (Nairobi)</li> <li>Requires owners of vessels 300 gross tonnes and above to carry wreck removal insurance (Nairobi)</li> </ul>
Address Irresponsible Vessel Management	<ul> <li>Prohibits:</li> <li>✓ Vessel abandonment</li> <li>✓ Causing a vessel to become a wreck (e.g., scuttling)</li> <li>✓ Leaving a vessel adrift for more than 48 hours</li> <li>✓ Leaving a dilapidated (poor condition) vessel in the same area for more than 60 days without consent</li> </ul>

## Bill C-64: Highlights (cont.)

Enhance Federal Powers	<ul> <li>Empowers the federal government to take proactive measures on problem vessels before they become greater problems – can order owners to take actions, or take actions directly.</li> <li>Hazard considerations broadened to include health and safety, economic, socio-economic and other environmental risks.</li> </ul>
Establish Compliance and Enforcement Regime	<ul> <li>Provides full inspection and investigation powers to cover broad array of scenarios.</li> <li>Sets out a sanctions regime (including penalties, fines and penal measures) to deter non-compliance.</li> </ul>
Realign Existing Authorities	<ul> <li>Consolidates the Salvage Convention and Receiver of Wreck provisions formerly under the <i>Canada Shipping Act, 2001</i> under one regime.</li> <li>Updates the Receiver of Wreck provisions to enhance the protection of rights of owners of wrecks who are unknown or cannot be located, as well as salvors.</li> </ul>

#### Bill C-64: Status



The Bill has completed the House Committee review and been reported back to the House, with amendments.



Awaiting 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, then will proceed to Senate



Aiming to have the legislation come into force by Spring 2019

The ability to identify vessel owners is key to holding them responsible



Developing options to **enhance pleasure craft licensing** in partnership with provinces and territories



Studying ways to enhance the **commercial vessel registration system** 

Short-term funding provided to address highest priority, small vessels



#### Transport Canada's Abandoned Boats Program

- Assessment and Removals: \$5.6M over 5 years (2017-2022)
- Education, Awareness, and Research: \$1.25M over 5 years (\$750K for education and awareness; and \$500K for research)



Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Small Craft Harbours Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels Removal Program

- Removal and Disposal in Small Craft Harbours:
  - \$1.3M over 5 years (2017-2022)

# A longer term, sustainable source of funding is being developed

National engagement on options for establishing vessel-owner contributed funds to clean up Canadian waters of abandoned and wrecked vessels has been launched.



A complete list of problem vessels is needed to prioritize their removals

National inventory of problem vessels will:



- identify the scope and scale of the issue within Canadian waters; and,
- track and report on all problem vessels.

A national risk assessment methodology will:

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- prioritize and rank problem vessels/wrecks across
   Canada; and,
- inform monitoring and remediation plans.

### All governments have an important role to play

Federal

Indigenous



Provinces & Territories

Local Communities & Municipalities

# Contact information for the National Strategy on Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels

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