



JULY 6, 2015

BACKGROUND

About Clear Seas

Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides impartial and evidence-based research on marine shipping risks, mitigation measures, and best practices for safe and sustainable marine shipping in Canada.

The Centre's operations began in 2014 after engaging with the marine shipping sector, port authorities, non-governmental organizations, First Nations, coastal communities, and other stakeholders concerned about marine shipping risks, and prevention, preparedness, and response strategies for Canada's coastlines and waterways.

Governance model

Clear Seas has been established as a Vancouver-based not-for-profit society, with oversight provided by a diverse and experienced Board of Directors and day-to-day operations led by an Executive Director (see attached profiles).

Clear Seas has a national mandate to facilitate independent and unbiased marine shipping research, identify best practices for safe and sustainable marine shipping worldwide, make policy recommendations and help create open dialogue with groups and communities most affected by marine shipping.

Clear Seas will be guided by the principles of openness, objectivity, excellence, and unbiased research and engagement.

Research priorities

Clear Seas will facilitate research, analyze policy frameworks and identify best practices worldwide that will deliver the highest standards in safe and sustainable marine shipping in Canada. Research activities will be focused on evaluating socioeconomic and environmental impacts of marine shipping in Canada, and identifying and sharing best practices for risk mitigation including prevention, preparedness and response.

All Clear Seas research and analyses will be publically released and made available on the Clear Seas website: www.clearseas.ca

Funding

Clear Seas has received start-up funding from the Government of Canada (Transport Canada), the Government of Alberta (Alberta Energy) and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). These funds support the operational set-up of the Centre, the commencement of independent research activities and the proactive engagement and dialogue with the marine shipping sector, non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal groups, coastal communities, and other stakeholders.

In subsequent years, Clear Seas anticipates that ongoing operational funding will be secured through the establishment of a fee mechanism supported by the marine shipping sector.

Clear Seas will operate at arm's length from all funding partners, and its research agenda will be independently set by the Centre's Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors. All results will be based on objective and unbiased research and will be publicly released and made available at the Clear Seas website.

Out of scope

As a research centre, Clear Seas will not speak on behalf of governments, agencies, industries or other interested parties in the event of spills or other marine shipping incidents, nor will Clear Seas be involved in planning, coordinating or participating in emergency responses in the event of marine incidents. Clear Seas will not comment on any specific development projects.