

2023-2024

Annual Report





August 2024

The Year in Review: International perspectives on Canadian shipping issues

Marine shipping connects Canada to its trading partners around the world and is regulated by internationally agreed laws and priorities. Through continued publication of fact-based, independent research on marine shipping, Clear Seas has brought clarity and understanding to the sector to support informed decisions by governments, industry, and the public.

The IMPAC5 conference last year raised awareness of the common concern for ocean conservation shared by coastal communities around the world. Indigenous people are increasingly empowered to act independently and in collaboration with other governments.

The Clear Seas team has continued reflecting on UNDRIP and how we can incorporate these principles into our work. Our Indigenous Internship program has created opportunities for Indigenous learners and researchers to achieve their goals in advancing knowledge and skills, benefitting communities around the coast. The launch of our Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I) program has brought shipping data to communities and enabled our team to learn from Indigenous communities.

The Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum's "Beyond the Horizon" webinar series brought international perspectives on technological mitigations of shipping risk, as did research completed on the Technological Implications for Marine Pilotage.

Kim Baird retired from the board and Anthony Teo of RightShip joined. Peter Xotta was promoted to CEO of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority – Canada's gateway to international trade and stepped down from the board at the end of the year.

Finally, I would like to thank our funders for their continued support, and our Board, Research Advisory Committee and our staff who are committed to our vision of a sustainable marine shipping sector that is safe, vibrant, and inclusive, both now and for future generations.

I invite you to read our latest report to learn more about how our dedicated team is building awareness of and trust in the maritime sector while advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Murray Coolican
Chair of the Board of Directors

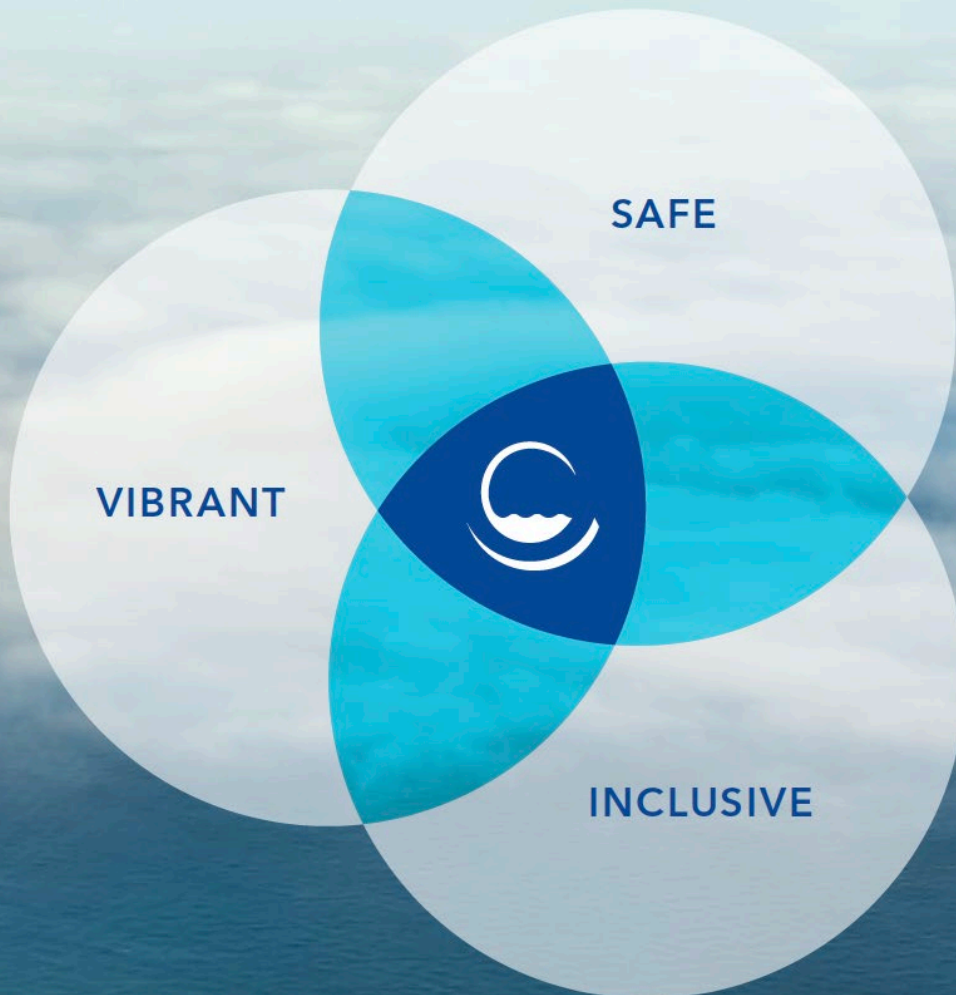
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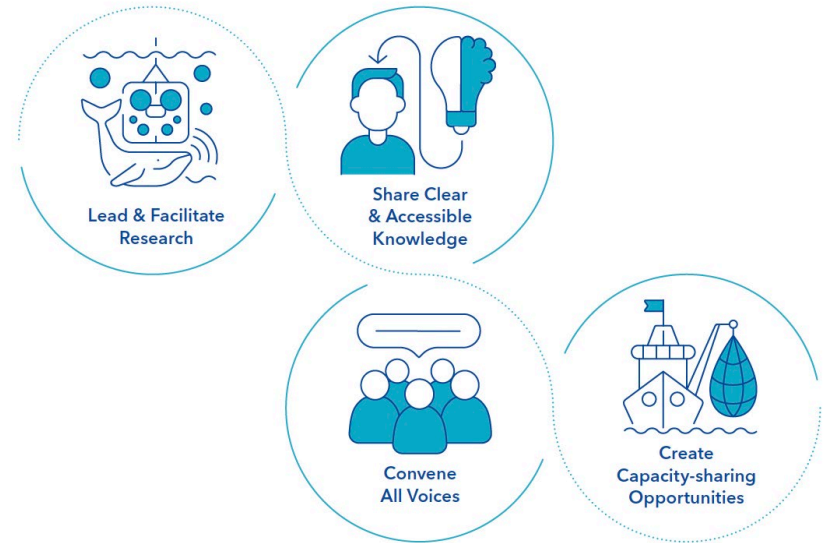
Annual Report 2023-2024

Vision, Mission, Purpose

VISION FOR MARINE SHIPPING IN CANADA



MISSION



PURPOSE

Clear Seas is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that provides independent fact-based information to enable governments, industry, and the public to make informed decisions on marine shipping issues. We work to build awareness and trust so that all people can feel a part of the marine sector. Our vision is a sustainable marine shipping sector that is safe, vibrant, and inclusive, both now and for future generations.

1.0 Communications and Engagement

Clear Seas disseminates information for decision makers and interested members of the public primarily through its website. Social media channels are used to reach a wider audience and attract them to engage with content directly or visit to the website. All of our publications are made available in English and French.

Highlights from Clear Seas' communication and engagement activities during this fiscal year are:

- New website providing a fresh look, better performance, and improved access to relevant information
- An average of 11,000 website visitors each month
- 14,235 social media followers
- Four newsletters sent to an email mailing list of 2,671 subscribers with an average open rate of 45.8%.
- Published seven articles:
 1. Research Spotlight: Dr. Jean Holloway
 2. Indigenous Employment in the Ocean Sector
 3. A Day in the Life on a Coast Guard Research Vessel
 4. Think Globally, Ship Locally: Short-sea shipping moves goods efficiently and reduces emissions
 5. Integrating Two-Eyed Seeing in the Blue Economy: Reflections from the blue generation during World Ocean's Week
 6. Getting to Zero by 2050: Technical regulatory details matter in accelerating decarbonization of marine fuels
 7. Clear Seas Internship Program is Opening Doors for Indigenous Students
- Engaged with industry, government and a wide array of stakeholders at a number of events and conferences across Canada in both French and English. Highlights include:
 - May: Participating in a panel on Governing Green Shipping Transformation: Pathways to maritime sustainability
 - June: Presenting to ACPA Public Affairs/Government Relations Committee
 - June: Presenting mapping marine traffic at Coastal Zone Canada Conference
 - June: Presenting alternative fuels at Green Tech 2023
 - June: Presenting Indigenous programs at the Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting in Paulatuk, NT
 - June: Presenting on alternative fuels at the National Marine Safety Association Meeting

- July: Participating in a panel on Overcoming DE&I Challenges in Environmental, Engineering & Oceans Sectors
 - September: Presenting on alternative fuels at the WWF-Canada NGO Shipping Workshop
 - September: Moderating a panel at the BC Chamber of Shipping's "Shipping Matters" conference
 - October: Presenting at the Association of British Columbia Marine Industries Business Opportunities Forum
 - November: Presenting on alternative fuels at GreenShip 2023 – conference hosted by the Vancouver Maritime Centre for Climate
 - November: Participating in the New Energy Markets in West Coast Shipping roundtable put on by Oceans North
 - November: Presenting on ship waste at Futurocéan : Le forum de l'innovation bleue (Quebec's blue economy innovation forum) in Rimouski
 - January: Presenting on Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration and Mapping Marine Traffic at the Salish Sea Symposium organized by Transport Canada under the Oceans Protection Plan.
 - February: Presenting our research on Climate Change Adaptation at the Senate Committee on Transport and Communications.
- Created a webinar series "Beyond the Horizon: The Role of Technology in Mitigating Shipping Risk" through the Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum community of practice with six sessions on satellite technology, aerial technology, water-based technology, shore-based technology, data collection and application, and whale detection technology.
 - Started a new project to assist Transport Canada's Innovation Centre with sharing the results of the research funded by the Quiet Vessel Initiative.

2.0 Indigenous Programs

This year, Clear Seas added a third program, called Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I), to our existing programs providing internship and employment opportunities in the maritime sector.

Program highlights include:

- Created eight internship opportunities for Indigenous researchers to conduct Indigenous-led projects through our Indigenous Internship Program

1. Chanessa Perry worked on Indigenous approaches to understanding underwater noise impacts on marine life.
 2. Gavin Woodburn studied ancestral clam gardens and fish weirs.
 3. Zoe George produced a video on the cultural importance of canoe racing in the Burrard inlet.
 4. Kayah George is producing a video on orca behaviour around marine vessels.
 5. Tia Rose researched the impact of invasive species on traditional food sources.
 6. Tévan Wilson is researching food sovereignty with Heiltsuk First Nation.
 7. Julianna Yue collaborated with the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) and the BC government to attract Indigenous youth to participate in the province's Coastal Marine Strategy.
 8. Charity Champagne completed a project on the health impacts of marine shipping.
- Celebrated the achievements of the interns at a celebration event in person and online.
 - Re-imagined our employment program as the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program (IMCAP) and developed the concept with partners.
 - Created an opportunity for two of the candidates who went through the Indigenous Career Pivot Program and one of our Indigenous Interns to attend World Oceans Week in New York. They participated in the Blue Generations program with 35 early-career ocean professionals from around the world. The trip was funded by Canada's Ocean Supercluster.
 - Engaged in conversations on shipping and ocean conservation with thirty-five First Nations communities along BC's coastline and held five in-person meetings with First Nations' administrations and Tribal Councils.

3.0 Research

Clear Seas' research is conducted by a combination of in-house capabilities complemented by a network of academic and industry experts across Canada and around the world.

Research program highlights from this past year include:

- Hosting a successful underwater noise workshop that brought together 40 participants from across North America to work on novel solutions for reducing ship noise.
- Participating in noise measurements onboard the fisheries research vessel CCGS Sir John Franklin in the Salish Sea for our MELO underwater noise research project.
- Launching a project in partnership with industry environmental certification non-profit Green Marine to map Canadian maritime industry initiatives to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Completing a project with Greenwood Maritime to explore the impacts of technology on the safe and efficient delivery of pilotage services in Canada and around the world.
- Launching a project with Westmar Advisors to create a vessel traffic forecast to 2040 for Canada's Pacific Region.
- Launching a project with Dillon/ABL to understand what environmental impact reduction technologies are available for ships and how to select them
- Commencing a project to update the popular online dashboard highlighting maritime commercial incidents and accidents
- Developing the Mapping Marine Traffic Toolkit to allow scientific methods to be applied to understand shipping traffic, its impacts, and management options.
- Hosting a successful workshop with the Canadian Coast Guard on Pathways to Net Zero Impact Shipping.

4.0 Governance and People

4.1 Maintaining Capable Leadership and Governance

Kim Baird retired from the board after 9 years and we welcomed Anthony Teo as a new director. The Board of Directors conducted three meetings, two of them in person. Further oversight and governance was provided by the two standing committees on Finance and Audit, and Governance and Human Resources.

The staff conducted two meetings with the Research Advisory Committee to help shape the research plan to enhance its impact and maintain relevance.

Jennifer Steele was promoted to Director of Research Operations. Clara Kaufmann and Tessa Coulthard were promoted to Research Leads. Andrea Mitchell-Rozario was promoted to Finance and Operations Manager. Charlene Seward was hired as Indigenous Program Lead for the new Indigenous Program on Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration. Maia Reynard was hired as Indigenous Programs Coordinator.

The financial results for FY2024 were independently audited by Smythe LLP and are published on the Clear Seas website.

4.2 Commitment to Reconciliation

Clear Seas acknowledges and values the important role that Indigenous People have had as mariners and stewards of the coastal and marine environment since time immemorial. Following

its commitment to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Clear Seas has created and implemented a multifaceted approach to reconciliation, including incorporating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action that urge all levels of government and non-governmental organizations to work together to repair the harm caused by residential schools and to advance reconciliation. As part of Clear Seas' reconciliation action plan, the following initiatives were completed during the fiscal year:

- Welcoming more Indigenous staff
- Published article on Two-Eyed Seeing
- Published article to express vision for Indigenous employment
- Interviewed for Green Marine article on Indigenous maritime careers
- Included reconciliation vision and progress in Annual Report FY2023
- Created a visual business plan using a medicine wheel approach
- Invested in team education on UNDRIP with Ken Paul
- Invested in team education on cultural safety with Len Pierre
- Invested in team education on reconciliation with Kim Baird
- Confirmed Indigenous Internship forms allows traditional names / alternative characters
- Held session on decolonizing cartography and on Indigenous research methods (led by Research team)
- Prepared OCAP Lite course for Board and RAC members
- Developed a draft data sharing agreement for research with communities
- Reviewed other companies' Reconciliation Action Plans
- Continued learning through Reconciliation Book Club

4.3 Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Clear Seas supports the 50-30 Challenge, an initiative among the Government of Canada, Canadian businesses, and diversity organizations. The goal of the program is to challenge Canadian organizations to increase the representation and inclusion of diverse groups within their workplaces, while highlighting the benefits of giving all Canadians a seat at the table. Clear Seas has committed to achieving 50% gender representation and 30% representation of recognition deserving groups in its senior leadership roles. Clear Seas achieved 46% and 27% against the 50/30 target by the end of this fiscal year.

Board of Directors

Murray Coolican, Chair

Former Senior Executive Vice President at Maritime Life and former Executive Director of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (Halifax, N.S.)

Aldo Chircop

Professor, Dalhousie University (Halifax, N.S.)

Ginny Flood

Former Vice President, Government Relations, Suncor Energy Inc. (Calgary, Alta.)

Julie Gelfand, Vice-Chair

Former Commissioner of the Environment for the Auditor General of Canada (Ottawa, Ont.)

Serge Le Guellec, Secretary-Treasurer

Former President and General Manager, Transport Desgagnés Inc. (Quebec, Que.)

Richard Sparrow

Member and Councillor of xwməθkwəyəm | Musqueam Indian Band, (Vancouver, B.C.)

Anthony Teo

Head of Americas for RightShip, Houston, Texas

Jane Weldon

Former Executive Head of the Oceans Protection Plan, Transport Canada, and Director-General of Canada's Marine Safety and Security (Ottawa, Ont.)

Peter Xotta

Vice President, Operations and Supply Chain, Port of Vancouver (Vancouver, B.C.)



Research Advisory Committee

Donald Bouchard

Coordinator of Maritime Activities for the Council of the Innu First Nation of Essipit

Alain Brophy

Lawyer, AB2.CA - Law Firm INC

Gary Drouillard

First Crew Member for the Cowichan Tribes Salish Sea Watch

Captain Christopher Hearn

Director of the Centre for Marine Simulation at Memorial University's Marine Institute

Debbie Murray

Senior Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Association of Canadian Port Authorities

Captain Ivan Oxford

Senior Master at Transport Desgagnés, a Director at the Nautical Institute-BC Branch as well as a part-time Instructor at the Camosun College

Francis Wiese

President of Climate, Ocean & People



Team

Paul Blomerus
Executive Director

Andrea Mitchell-Rozario
Finance and Operations Manager

Meghan Mathieson
Director of Strategy and Engagement

Sarah Thomas
Director of Strategy and Engagement

Jennifer Steele
Director of Research Operations

Edward Downing
Director of Communications

Jean-François Veilleux
Communications Manager

Stephanie Hurlburt
Indigenous Program Lead

Charlene Seward
Indigenous Program Lead

Justin Perry
Indigenous Program Lead

Maia Reynard
Indigenous Program Coordinator

Clara Kaufmann
Research Lead

Tessa Coulthard
Research Lead

Rachel Stewart-Dziama
Research Associate

