

2024-2025

Annual Report





June 2025

The Year in Review: Investing in the future of shipping in Canada

The past year saw growing awareness of the essential role of marine shipping in connecting Canada to its trading partners around the world. To meet changing demands of trade and global commitments to decarbonize the maritime sector, Canada urgently needs to invest in infrastructure to support a clean, resilient, and efficient supply chain. Through continued publication of fact-based, independent research on marine shipping, celebrating 10 years since its launch in 2015, Clear Seas has brought clarity and understanding to the sector to support informed decision-making by governments, industry, and the public.

Key research publications spanned the role of UN Sustainable Development Goals in reporting on sustainability in the marine shipping sector and a toolkit to identify pathways to investment in port infrastructure to prepare for trade growth and decarbonization expectations. The Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum's "Beyond the Horizon" webinar series brought new perspectives on technological mitigations of shipping risk through sessions on remote navigation technology, pilotage technologies, whale detection, and predictive ship arrival technology.

Clear Seas' Indigenous Programs expanded to bring more Indigenous ways of knowing into the marine sector. The Indigenous Internship Program supported Indigenous-led research that connected interns to their communities and to the marine sector. Our Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I) program has brought relevant, accessible shipping data to communities and enabled our team to learn from Indigenous communities about their priorities and concerns. The launch of the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program has enabled training in the key areas of ship operating, shipbuilding and repair, and LNG bunkering. The Clear Seas team has continued reflecting on reconciliation in the maritime sector and how we can incorporate the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into our work.

We bid farewell to former board chair Murray Coolican for a well-deserved retirement and welcomed Captain Shri Madiwal of the Port of Vancouver and Udlu Hanson of Baffinland Iron Mines to the board, bringing deep maritime expertise and an important Arctic perspective to our operations, respectively.

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.

Serge Le Guellec
Chair of the Board of Directors

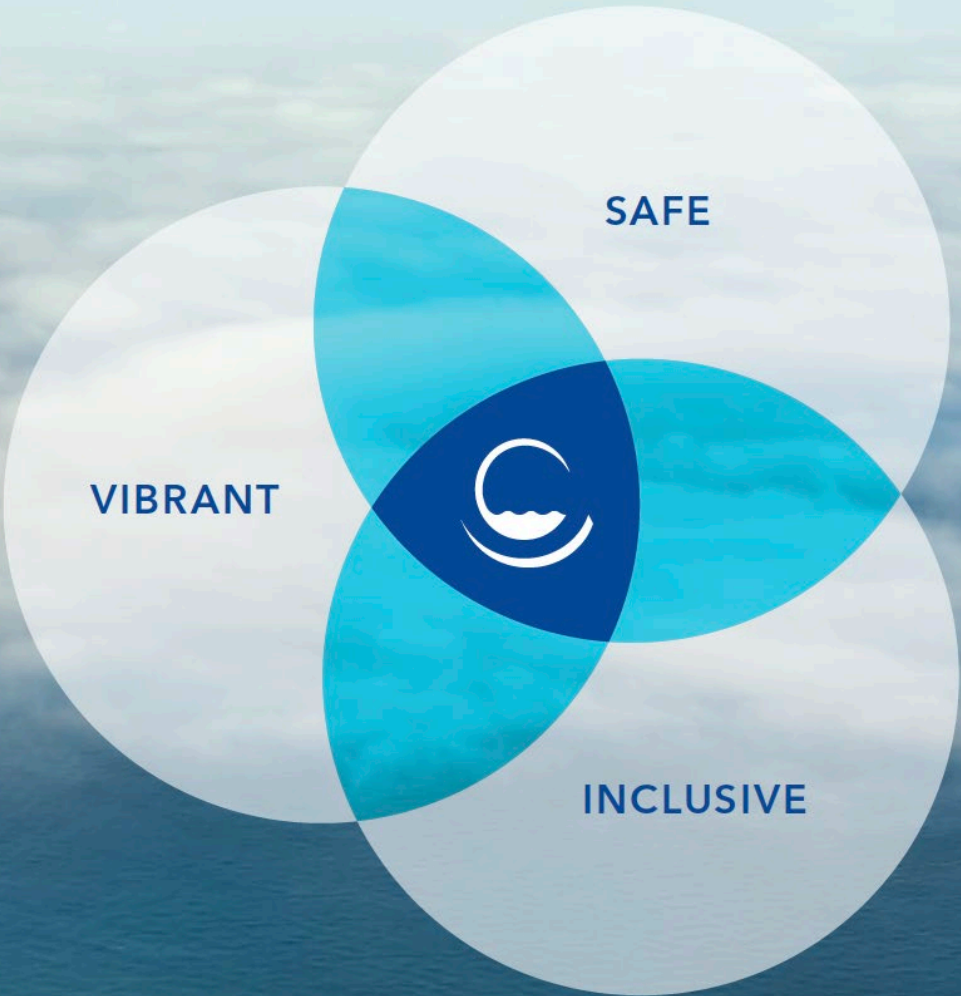
Table of Contents

The Year in Review: Investing in the future of shipping in Canada	iii
Table of Contents	v
Annual Report 2024-2025	6
About Clear Seas	7
1.0 Celebrating 10 Years	8
1.1 Selected Milestones.....	9
2.0 Communications and Engagement	11
3.0 Indigenous Programs.....	13
3.1 Highlights From the Indigenous Internship Program	13
3.2 Highlights From the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program	13
3.3 Highlights From the Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I) Program	14
4.0 Research	14
5.0 Governance and People	15
5.1 Maintaining Capable Leadership and Governance	15
5.2 Commitment to Reconciliation	16
5.3 Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	16
Board of Directors.....	17
Research Advisory Committee	18
Team	19

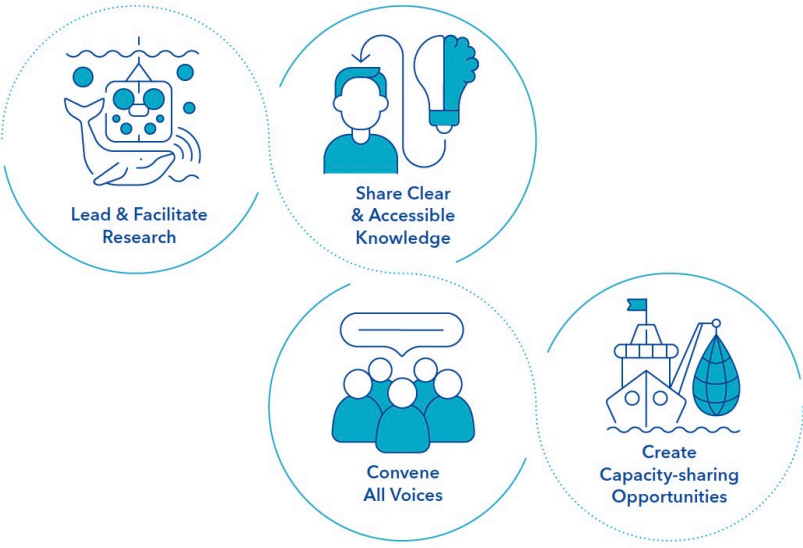
Annual Report 2024-2025

About Clear Seas

VISION FOR MARINE SHIPPING IN CANADA



APPROACH



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 Celebrating 10 Years

In 2013, the Tanker Safety Expert Panel published 45 recommendations to improve Canada's preparedness and response for oil and gas export. The final recommendation declared: "The Government of Canada should collaborate with industry to establish and together fund a Canadian research and development program for oil spill preparedness and response. Research priorities should be identified through collaboration between industry, government and academia."

Clear Seas was registered as the Centre of Excellence for Marine Transportation of Oil and LNG Commodities in Canada Society in 2014 and launched as an organization on July 6, 2015 with three staff and a nine-member board of directors with Dr. Kate Moran as the first Chair, following Duncan Wilson serving as Acting Chair during the organization's formative months.

From 2015 to 2020, Clear Seas was focused on establishing its relevance and purpose by developing a robust research program to provide the independent, fact-based information communities and governments need for better decision making. From an initial purpose to be the leading independent source of information on best practices for the marine shipping of Canada's oil and LNG commodities, initially on Canada's Pacific Coast, Clear Seas underwent a first transition in 2017 to add raw materials and processed goods to the priority of oil and LNG shipments. The revised purpose was to be the leading independent source of information on best practices for safe and sustainable marine shipping on Canada's coastlines and waterways.

From 2020 to 2025, Clear Seas further expanded its scope to meet its commitment to bring accessible marine shipping information to everyone in Canada by focusing on connecting with Indigenous Peoples living on Canada's coasts to first understand the shipping risks and opportunities relevant to their marine territories and then provide accessible shipping data to support communities in their research and stewardship efforts. In 2024, Clear Seas' purpose was revised again to:

1. Lead and facilitate research that generates independent fact-based information on marine shipping issues;
2. Share clear and accessible knowledge that enables governments, industry and the public to make informed decisions on marine shipping issues;
3. Convene all voices in open and respectful dialogue on marine shipping issues; and
4. Create capacity sharing opportunities and work experiences for a more inclusive marine industry.

1.1 Selected Milestones

2015

- Launched on Jul 6, 2015 with Dr. Kate Moran as board chair, Kim Baird as vice-chair, and three staff members
- Commissioned the Council of Canadian Academies to convene expert panels to assess: Commercial Marine Shipping Accidents: Understanding the Risks in Canada and The Value of Commercial Marine Shipping in Canada

2016

- Established a multidisciplinary and geographically diverse Research Advisory Committee
- Convened working groups to scope the Marine Transportation Corridors Initiative
- Published first public opinion poll on marine shipping issues with the Angus Reid Institute

2017

- Expanded purpose to be the leading independent source of information on best practices for safe and sustainable marine shipping on Canada's coastlines and waterways
- Created microsites on *Oil Tankers in Canadian Waters* and *Marine Shipping & You*
- Welcomed Peter Ellis to the role of executive director

2018

- Published the second public opinion poll on marine shipping issues with the Angus Reid Institute, Vessel Drift and Response Analysis for Canada's Pacific Coast, and Emergency Towing Vessel Needs Assessment
- Created microsites on Who Pays for an Oil Spill, Underwater Noise and Marine Mammals, and Invasive Species
- Welcomed Bud Streeter to the role of board chair

2019

- Published research on Availability of Tugs of Opportunity in Canada's Pacific Region and Assessing the Sensitivity of Coastal Areas to Oil Spills
- Created microsites on Air Pollution and LNG & Marine Shipping
- Launched the Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum community of practice in partnership with the Marine Environment Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) network

2020

- Published the third public opinion poll and report on Assessing Sensitivity of Coastal Areas to Oil Spills
- Welcomed Dr. Paul Blomerus to the role of executive director

2021

- Created the interactive Maritime Incidents & Accidents Dashboard
- Published Vessel Traffic in Canada's Pacific Region
- Launched the Indigenous Internship Program as an innovative initiative to conduct inclusive maritime-related research that integrates Traditional Knowledge and builds research capacity within Indigenous communities

2022

- Welcomed Murray Coolican to the role of board chair
- Published Assessing Shipping Risk in Canada, Climate Change Vulnerability of the Canadian Maritime Environment, and Assessing Pollutants in Scrubber Discharge Water from Ships
- Created a Story Map in four languages on Inuit Rights and Marine Use with research by Coastal Restoration Nunavut

2023

- Published an overview of Marine Shipping in the Great Lakes
- Launched the Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I) Program

2024

- Welcomed Serge Le Guellec to the role of board chair
- Launched the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program
- Published Technology Implications for Marine Pilotage, Mapping Canadian Maritime Initiatives to UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the fifth public opinion poll

2025

- Shared the Quiet Vessel Initiative results in a series of articles on underwater noise
- Published Increasing Capital Investment in Ports – A Practical Toolkit and Vessel Traffic Initiative to 2040 for Canada's Pacific Region
- Launched a new interactive microsite on Hydrogen & Marine Shipping

2.0 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:

- An average of 10,250 website visitors each month
- 14,434 social media followers
- Issued 7 newsletters to a total of 18,339 recipients with an average open rate of 41.2%.
- Contracted media relations support from Exponentiel in Montreal.
- Published 12 articles:
 - From Paper Charts to Satellites: A Journey through the Evolution of Marine Navigation
 - Beyond the Horizon: Role of Technology in Mitigating Shipping Risk
 - Why Make Tugs Electric?
 - Uncharted Waters: Mapping Canada's Path to Prevent Pollution from Shipwrecks
 - Sustainability in the Maritime Industry – More than "Life Below Water"
 - Traditional Waters, Modern Threats: The Gitga'at's Fight for Humpbacks
 - Mitigating Underwater Noise with Indigenous Knowledge
 - Quiet Vessel Initiative: Detecting and Measuring Underwater Radiated Noise
 - Quiet Vessel Initiative: The Problem of Depth
 - Quiet Vessel Initiative: Measuring Sound: Onboard Approaches
 - Quiet Vessel Initiative: Simulations to Spot a Problem Before it Occurs
 - Quiet Vessel Initiative: Canada's Efforts to Mitigate Underwater Radiated Noise
- Made the majority of the existing microsites editable for future updates to keep information current.
- 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 17 presentations of Clear Seas' work at events and conferences:
 - April: Facilitated a panel on Autonomous Vessels at the COAST / ABCMI Innovation Forum and attended the Canada's Ocean Supercluster Ambition 2035 event.
 - May: Presented on pilotage technologies for safe navigation at the 2024 Digital@Sea North America Conference and attended the Assises québécoises du secteur maritime conference.

- June: Presented on the Quiet Vessel Initiative and moderated a panel on maritime decarbonization at the Green Tech 2024 conference.
- September: Presented on the Quiet Vessel Initiative at the Port of Prince Rupert's Marine Mammal Stewardship Committee and on Indigenous employment at the Ports Canada 2024 conference. Also attended the 2024 Business of Shipping Conference, Pacific Working Group for Tugs and Workboats, and hosted a booth at the Port of Vancouver Port Day.
- October: Presented on Indigenous employment at the Imagine Marine Conference on resolving the talent crisis. The team convened in-person in Montreal to meet with stakeholders and further relationships related to our research and programs.
- November: Presented on the Quiet Vessel Initiative at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council national meeting and provided the territorial acknowledgement and presented on alternative marine fuels at GreenShip 2024.
- January: Provided a traditional welcome and territorial acknowledgement at the Mariners' Workshop and presented on alternative fuels at the Northwest Cruise Green Corridor.
- February: Presented on Indigenous employment at ECO Canada Impact 2025 conference and shipping's role in preventing invasive species transfer at the BC Invasive Species Forum.
- March: Provided a traditional welcome at the Ocean Visions Biennial Summit 2025, hosted a booth on Indigenous programs at the Gathering Our Voices conference and attended workshops on underwater noise from small vessels and underwater noise reduction strategy for the Salish Sea.
- Held three research launch webinars:
 - Mapping Canadian Maritime Industry Initiatives to UN Sustainable Development Goals (in partnership with Green Marine and with the participation of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities)
 - Canadians' Attitudes Towards Marine Shipping in 2024 (in partnership with the Angus Reid Institute)
 - Increasing Capital Investments in Ports – A Practical Toolkit (in partnership with C40 Cities and with the participation of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities)
- Continued the webinar series "Beyond the Horizon: The Role of Technology in Mitigating Shipping Risk" through the Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum community of practice with four sessions on remote navigation technology, pilotage technologies, whale detection, and predictive ship arrival technology.

3.0 Indigenous Programs

Clear Seas grew the existing Indigenous program offerings and officially launched the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program (IMCAP) providing more internship and employment opportunities in the maritime sector.

3.1 Highlights From the Indigenous Internship Program

- Created eight internship opportunities for Indigenous-led research mentored by Clear Seas staff:
 1. Tia Rose researched the impact of shipping on traditional textiles.
 2. Eartha Linnell & Charlene Linnell developed a cedar weaving workshop to bring together Coast Salish peoples on Salt Spring Island and share their stories.
 3. Zoe George created an exhibit on the cultural importance of canoe racing in the Burrard inlet.
 4. Tévan Wilson worked with the Heiltsuk First Nation on their Climate Action Plan relating to food sovereignty and land stewardship.
 5. Nakoda Hunter explored Indigenous perspectives on marine protected areas.
 6. Javen Marchant worked with the Squamish Nation on water quality relating to salmon migration.
 7. Teyohá:te Brant compiled Kanien'kehá:ka narratives on the impact of the St. Lawrence Seaway on traditional ways of life.
 8. Aaliyah Kostering explored Indigenous perspectives on abandoned and derelict vessels.
- Held a celebration event for the September 2024 cohort in December 2024 and hosted a networking event for past and current interns with the Clear Seas team, board, and industry participants in May 2024.
- Implemented a monthly internship training session to foster cohort connections and continue learning for interns.
- Secured \$450,000 in funding from Mitacs for an additional 30 internships over two years.

3.2 Highlights From the Indigenous Marine Career Advancement Program

- Secured academic training partnerships with British Columbia Institute of Technology and Camosun College.
- Established partnership with Canada's Ocean Supercluster and Workforce Warriors to provide wage subsidies through the Indigenous Career Pivot Program 3.0.

- Created a steering committee with cross-sector expertise in maritime employment.
- Trained 20 participants (with 3 already employed) in Shipbuilding and Repair Entry-Level Training.
- Trained 5 participants in LNG handling for ship bunkering.
- Provided ongoing support for all graduates through career coaching.
- Partnered with Coastal Restoration Society to offer Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training in communities, including vessel safety and marine first aid training, in summer 2025.
- Planned for continued training offerings with Camosun College in Victoria and BCIT in Kitimat in fall 2025.

3.3 Highlights From the Shipping and Ocean Conservation Integration (SOC-I) Program

- Engaged in conversations on shipping and ocean conservation with thirty-nine First Nations communities along BC's coastline and held seven in-person meetings with First Nations' administrations and Tribal Councils
- Scoped, conducted, and reported on one workshop with a First Nations community
- Initiated two deep dive projects with First Nations communities
- Developed a data-sharing agreement for use with First Nations communities
- Developed five new data layers or models as part of the Mapping Marine Traffic program with the support of two co-op students
- Signed a partnership agreement and memorandum of understanding with the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council.

4.0 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:

- Completing 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 Westmar Advisors to create a vessel traffic forecast to 2040 for Canada's Pacific Region.

- Completing a project in partnership with C40 Cities to gather international best practices for Increasing Capital Investment in Ports – A Practical Toolkit.
- Completing the fifth public opinion poll in partnership with the Angus Reid Institute on Canadians’ Attitudes Towards Marine Shipping.
- Scoping, developing and securing funding for a new project on the Future of Navigational Risk Management in partnership with Dalhousie University, UQAR, and four port authorities.
- Developing the Mapping Marine Traffic program to leverage spatial data and novel analysis methods to understand shipping traffic, its impacts, and management options.
- Contributing to an industry-led project in partnership with GSTS on Empowering Marine Collaboration with AI.
- Creating a new microsite focused on the challenges and opportunities of green hydrogen and its derivatives as marine fuels and cargos.
- Hosting a successful workshop with the Canadian Coast Guard on Pathways to Net Zero Impact Shipping.
- Involving one research assistant and two co-op students to support the research program.

5.0 Governance and People

5.1 Maintaining Capable Leadership and Governance

Murray Coolican retired from the board after six years, with the past two years as board chair. Serge Le Guellec became board chair and Julie Gelfand remained as vice-chair. We welcomed Shri Madiwal and Udloriak (Udlu) Hanson as new directors. The Board of Directors conducted three meetings, one 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. The Research Advisory Committee members all continued in their roles.

Clara Kaufmann was promoted to Research Manager. Over the course of the year, the research program was supported by a research assistant, Chanessa Perry, and two co-op students: Tatum Narode and Eitan Klinger.

The financial results for FY2025 were independently audited by Smythe LLP and are published on Clear Seas’ website.

5.2 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:

- Welcomed our first Indigenous research staff member (Chanessa Perry, Research Assistant) and our first Inuit board member (Udloriuk Hanson).
- Held an internal reconciliation visioning session to project where the organization could be in the future.
- Created an Asana board to collaboratively track progress on reconciliation action items.
- Developed a data sharing agreement to support research in partnership with First Nations communities
- Continued learning through Reconciliation Book Club with a rotating focus on learning from history, understanding current events, and celebrating culture.

5.3 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 50% and 41% against the 50/30 target by the end of this fiscal year.

Board of Directors

Serge Le Guellec, Chair

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

Julie Gelfand, Vice-Chair

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

Aldo Chircop

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

Ginny Flood

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

Udloriak (Udlu) Hanson

Vice President, Community & Strategic Development, Baffinland Iron Mines (Iqaluit, Nvt.)

Captain Shri Madiwal

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

Richard Sparrow

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

Anthony Teo

Former Head of Americas for RightShip, Houston, Texas

Jane Weldon, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Research Advisory Committee

Donald Bouchard

Coordinator of Maritime Activities for the Council of the Innu First Nation of Essipit (Essipit, Que.)

Alain Brophy

Lawyer, AB2.CA - Law Firm INC (Quebec, Que.)

Gary Drouillard

First Crew Member for the Cowichan Tribes Salish Sea Watch (Cowichan Bay, B.C.)

Captain Christopher Hearn

Director of the Centre for Marine Simulation at Memorial University's Marine Institute (St. John's, N.L.)

Debbie Murray

Vice President, Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Association of Canadian Port Authorities (Ottawa, Ont.)

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 (Victoria, B.C.)

Francis Wiese

President of Climate, Ocean & People (Anchorage, AK)



Team

Paul Blomerus

Executive Director

Andrea Mitchell-Rozario

Finance and Operations Manager

Meghan Mathieson

Director of Strategy and Engagement

Sarah Thomas

Director of Indigenous Programs

Jennifer Steele (on leave)

Director of Research Operations

Jean-François Veilleux

Communications Manager

Clara Kaufmann

Research Manager

Stephanie Hurlburt

Indigenous Program Lead

Charlene Seward

Indigenous Program Lead

Maia Reynard

Indigenous Program Coordinator

Tessa Coulthard

Research Lead

Rachel Stewart-Dziama

Research Associate

Chanessa Perry

Research Assistant

Tatum Narode

Research Co-op Student

Eitan Klinger

Research Co-op Student

