

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

## Horizontal initiatives

- [Funding to implement Canada's new marine conservation targets](#)
- [Funding to protect and promote the health of Canada's priority at-risk whale populations](#)

### Funding to implement Canada's new marine conservation targets

#### Lead department

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

#### Federal partner departments

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Transport Canada (TC); Parks Canada (PC); Natural Resource Canada (NRCan); Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

#### Start date

2021-22

#### End date

2025-26

#### Description

This initiative provides funding for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada (PC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Transport Canada (TC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) through three pillars of activities that will support conserving 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025. In addition, DFO sought incremental resources to manage existing *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Together, the three pillars will advance new and existing MPAs and OECMs by building on the lessons learned and best practices gained through previous marine conservation efforts. Previous efforts have demonstrated that achieving marine conservation efforts within Canada requires a multi-pronged approach that is based on best available information and ensuring support and trust of partners and stakeholders. This horizontal initiative uses a whole-of-government approach that is based on capacity to implement the necessary activities to inform establishment and management of sites, enables the active participation of partners and stakeholders, and applies a balanced approach for advancing conservation by considering economic and societal objectives within the marine environment.

This initiative has been developed based on implicated departments' experience with previous marine conservation initiatives, even though an evaluation of the 2016 marine conservation targets initiative has not been undertaken. This initiative uses a cooperative approach between departments where centrally coordinated policy direction is provided to support and advance collaborative responses to current and emerging oceans management issues, and to support the development of strengthened performance measurement tools, including enhanced outcomes, indicators and protocols.

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

Increasing Canada's conservation efforts to 25 per cent by 2025 is highly ambitious. To establish new conservation areas and ensure that those that are contributing to the target are effectively conserving important species, habitats and ecosystems, departments must gain an understanding at site and bioregional levels of the ecological, social, economic and cultural importance of areas, while concurrently ensuring that the efforts have the support of governments, Indigenous peoples, and stakeholders. To achieve these objectives in less than five years will require the activities under each of the three pillars be implemented in a complementary manner. Working towards the 2025 target by establishing new conserved areas while pursuing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and collaborative partnerships will set a solid framework for the Government of Canada to achieve the 2025 target.

This initiative aligns with the Government of Canada's Greening Government Strategy. Consistent with the Strategy, departments will minimize the ecosystem impacts of marine activities, such as reducing impacts from noise due to vessel operations. This initiative is focused on the collaborative involvement of Indigenous peoples, marine users, and local communities. Departments commit to engaging and collaborating in a way that achieves common environmental goals and supports sustainability planning in local communities.

The activities outlined in this initiative ensure that Canada's duty to consult and accommodate is met. Departments will engage and consult with Indigenous groups to establish new conservation areas and in the ongoing management of sites. Where sites are within territory under a Modern Treaty, activities within this initiative have been developed to ensure respect for Modern Treaty obligations. For new sites, potential Indigenous groups and Modern Treaty partners to be consulted have been identified. This initiative seeks resources to support Indigenous involvement in the establishment and management of sites, enabling self governance and stewardship of Indigenous territory. This initiative also aims to support the inclusion of Indigenous authorities at the table within MSP governance structures. Overall, this initiative has been developed in a manner that recognizes the Government of Canada's duty to consult, respects Modern Treaty agreements, and seeks to emphasize reconciliation and facilitation of stewardship and economic opportunities for Indigenous groups.

### **Governance structures**

DFO, PCA, and ECCC are responsible for achieving the new marine conservation targets by pursuing the activities outlined within this initiative. However, implementation of supporting activities by TC, NRCan, and CIRNAC are critical to DFO, PCA, and ECCC's planning, establishment, management and outreach activities. Given the fact that this initiative tasks six different departments to work collaboratively to pursue shared outcomes, an Assistant Deputy Minister level governance committee will provide horizontal oversight to the initiative.

The Horizontal Initiative Oversight Committee for this initiative will be the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Marine Conservation Targets (MCT) Implementation Committee, a new sub-committee that will be formed under the auspices of the existing ADMs' Interdepartmental Committee on Oceans. DFO will have a secretariat in place to support this committee. Meetings of the new ADM MCT Implementation Committee will be held quarterly and membership will include Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada (PC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Transport Canada (TC), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). As lead for this committee, DFO will facilitate regular interactions with ADMs on issues of substance, such as national policy and/or program implementation challenges, and will monitor results of the initiative and propose course corrections as required.

The ADM MCT Implementation Committee will leverage expertise and best practices put in place by the long term work of the ADMs' Interdepartmental Committee on Oceans, and will coordinate meeting agendas and secretariat services in order to reduce administrative burden of a new governance structure. The ADM MCT Implementation Committee will be supported by the existing Director Generals' Federal Marine Protected Area Strategy Committee. This Committee's mandate is to strengthen partnerships and increase collaboration between federal government departments that establish and manage Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). All departments included in this initiative are members of the Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis to discuss policy and

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

implementation issues across all member departments related to marine conservation and planning, with chair responsibilities shared between DFO and PC.

Issues relevant to the implementation of this initiative will be discussed through the Director Generals' Federal Marine Protected Area Strategy Committee, with recommendations, and outstanding issues to be sent to the ADM MCT Implementation Committee for discussion and review.

**Total federal funding allocated (from start to end date) (dollars)**

\$842,621,551

**Total federal planned spending to date (dollars)**

\$666,331,377

**Total federal actual spending to date (dollars)**

\$526,251,947

**Date of last renewal of the horizontal initiative**

Not applicable

**Total federal funding allocated at the last renewal, and source of funding (dollars)**

Not applicable

**Additional federal funding received after the last renewal (dollars)**

Not applicable

**Total planned spending since the last renewal**

Not applicable

**Total actual spending since the last renewal**

Not applicable

**Fiscal year of planned completion of next evaluation**

An evaluation is scheduled to be completed in 2025-26

**Performance highlights**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

In 2024-25, the Tang.əwan – Һаҭсwіqak – Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA) was designated (June 19, 2024) and the Tuvaijuittuq MPA was designated by a second Ministerial Order (July 24, 2024). As well, three new Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) were recognized (on March 11, 2025): Banks marine refuge, Gaw Káahlíi (Masset Inlet) marine refuge, and Xaana Káahlíi (Skidegate Inlet) marine

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

refuge. This builds on the recognition of Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge in June 2022 and Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala (Lull/Hoeya) in February 2023. As a result, as of March 31, 2025, Canada has conserved 15.54% of its oceans, which is more than halfway to the ambitious target of conserving 30% by 2030.

Also in 2024-25, the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, seventeen First Nations and philanthropic donors announced the signing of the Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence agreement. This historic milestone will advance reconciliation and Indigenous-led marine conservation on Canada's west coast. As well, the Government of Canada, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Aajuraq Conservation Fund Society announced the signing of the SINAA Project Finance for Permanence agreement. The agreement will support Inuit-led conservation, advance reconciliation, and include a network of proposed protected areas in Canada's Arctic.

Finally, in January 2025, a new series of MPA annual reports were published. These reports, developed in collaboration with Inuit and First Nations partners, provincial governments and stakeholders, provide an overview of management activities in Canada's 14 Oceans Act MPAs.

#### Western Arctic MSP

- held Inuvialuit community workshop to identify priority data gaps and begin marine planning conversation with partners.
- collaborated with regional DFO MSP teams for guidance on conducting a Western Arctic data gap analysis. Two rounds of the analysis were completed to identify additional data gaps according to the national foundational data layer themes. Data analysis was completed using Power BI, results were presented twice to Indigenous co-management bodies.
- guided by the data gap analysis results, six different databases were inventoried and reviewed to identify relevant data sets in the Western Arctic to help advance marine planning and improve decision making. Approximately 150 data layers were identified.
- initiated planning process to host a Western Arctic MSP data layer identification workshop.
- developed a contribution agreement with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to revitalize and update the regional geospatial platform which is necessary to advance marine planning. This platform has been in use for many years and provides communities with access to otherwise inaccessible mapping software.

#### Transport Canada (TC)

Continued to collaborate with federal partners, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada to establish new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

This includes the Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait MPAs, which together added approximately 2.02% to Canada's Marine Conservation Targets (MCT).

Continued to provide advice and guidance on mitigating risks from marine transportation activities within MPAs, in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, in the context of conservation objectives.

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

#### Parks Canada (PC)

In 2024-25, progress advanced significantly on 10 new National Marine Conservation Areas representing nine marine regions:

- Parks Canada and partners completed a feasibility assessment for eastern James Bay NMCA (Quebec) (James Bay marine region) and signed an MOU to begin negotiations on an establishment agreement.
- Parks Canada and partners completed the feasibility assessment and signed an agreement-in-principle towards the establishment of an NMCAR in the Central Coast region of British Columbia (Queen Charlotte Sound marine region).
- negotiations continued towards the establishment of the Torngats Inuit Protected Area/NMCA (Labrador Coast marine region), and the Western James Bay and Southwestern Hudson Bay NMCA (James Bay and Hudson Bay marine regions).
- work continued for feasibility assessments for three proposed national marine conservation areas in southern Strait of Georgia (British Columbia), the South Coast Fjords NMCA (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Mingan-Anticosti (Quebec) (covering 3 currently unrepresented marine regions).
- memoranda of understanding were signed with 12 First Nation partners in January 2025 for a feasibility assessment for a proposed NMCAR in their traditional territories (within the Vancouver Island Shelf marine region, BC).
- Parks Canada and partners jointly closed the feasibility assessment process for a marine protected area in the Magdalene Islands (Quebec) after it was found to not be feasible at this time.
- negotiations for site selection with partners to formally begin a feasibility assessment continue for the Hudson Bay marine region (MB).
- Parks Canada continues to participate in meetings for Arctic related files, including marine spatial planning for the Western Arctic. MSP work remains on hold.
- NMCAs continue to develop and implement their monitoring plans in collaboration with partners, including monitoring water quality and fish at Great Lakes sites, and marine mammals and ocean noise in the Pacific and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In 2024-25, all five existing NMCAs have draft monitoring plans in place and are collecting and assessing information to report on the state of coastal and marine ecosystems in NMCAs.

#### Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- continued to advance efforts to establish 3 marine National Wildlife Areas by undertaking feasibility assessment work and planning for initial advisory/steering committee meetings.
- advanced work, and participated in, Marine Spatial Planning efforts in the Western Arctic by undertaking surveys of key marine habitat and species abundance. ECCC worked with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Inuvialuit on the identification of marine and terrestrial

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

areas for conservation. ECCC continued to prepare spatial data products used to inform marine and coastal planning and decision-making.

- enabled the participation of Indigenous Peoples in various processes related to the establishment of marine National Wildlife Areas through contribution funding.

#### Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

NRCan has developed science-based technical outputs, including presentations, publications, and research reports, addressing the cumulative effects of petroleum in Canadian Arctic waters, to support marine spatial planning efforts.

#### Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

CIRNAC's engagement with Inuit partners has continued to increase annually. To address the risk of Indigenous organizations potentially not being able to absorb MCT funding due to capacity issues, CIRNAC continues to work with Indigenous partners to develop, participate in, lead and implement projects, and provide support at various parts of the proposal/funding/project reporting process, as needed. CIRNAC also established agreements with federal and academic recipients who work on projects in collaboration with Indigenous organizations and involve the participation of community members.

#### Contact information

Christie Chute, [Christie.Chute@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Christie.Chute@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
Kathy Graham, [Kathy.Graham@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Kathy.Graham@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

#### Shared outcomes:

1. Canada's estuarine, marine, and coastal ecosystems and marine natural heritage are conserved and effectively managed
2. Crown-Indigenous partnerships and engagement are enhanced through a shared interest in marine conservation

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

Name of theme	Theme A: Establishment, Monitoring, and Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)		Theme B: Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Western Arctic		Theme C: Advancing Reconciliation		Internal Services
Theme outcome(s)	Canada's network of protected areas is expanded and strengthened	Protected and conserved areas are effectively managed and monitored	Governance is stabilized within a Marine Spatial Planning framework	Science and knowledge products are developed to inform Marine Spatial Planning	Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous peoples	Indigenous peoples are engaged in collaborative decision-making and management bodies	n/a
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	\$450,188,212		\$21,137,647		\$101,927,193		\$108,690,372
Parks Canada (PC)	\$48,166,686		\$770,298		\$269,988		\$4,348,253
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	\$10,654,722		\$1,263,929		\$9,449,979		\$2,064,418
Natural Resource Canada (NRCan)	\$15,522,623		\$2,880,327		n/a		\$2,033,477
Transport Canada (TC)	\$26,541,417 (including internal services)		\$1,575,305 (including internal services)		\$13,563,200 (including internal services)		n/a
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	\$10,584,480		\$10,584,480		n/a		\$404,546

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

## Performance information

### Horizontal initiative overview

Name of horizontal initiative	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024–25 Planned spending	2024–25 Actual spending	Horizontal initiative shared outcome(s)	2024–25 Performance indicator(s)	2024–25 Target(s)	Date to achieve target	2024–25 Actual results
Funding to Implement Canada's New Marine Conservation Targets	\$842,621,551	\$188,558,279	\$172,419,063	Canada's estuarine, marine, and coastal ecosystems and marine natural heritage are conserved and effectively managed	Percentage of marine and coastal areas that are conserved through networks of protected areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures	25%	December 2025	15.54% (893,804/5,750,000)
					Percentage of conserved marine and coastal areas that are effectively managed	14%	December 2025	DFO: Data not available PC: 2.12%
				Crown-Indigenous partnerships and engagement are enhanced through a shared interest in marine conservation	Percentage of Indigenous people engaged in marine planning and conservation who indicate that the engagement was meaningful	70%	December 2025	59%

### Theme A details

Name of theme	Total federal theme funding,	2024–25 Federal theme	2024–25 Federal theme	Theme outcome(s)	Theme performance indicator(s)	Theme target(s)	Date to achieve	2024–25 Actual
---------------	------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------------

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

	including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	planned spending	actual spending				theme target	results
Establishment, Monitoring, and Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)	\$667,310,512	\$150,421,088	\$140,332,796	Canada's network of protected areas is expanded and strengthened	Number of new <i>Oceans Act</i> Marine Protected Areas established	16	December 2025	2
					Percentage of marine regions represented in the national marine conservation area system	45%	December 2025	21%
					Number of ECCC Protected Areas, OECMs and other conserved areas with demonstrated progress toward establishment or expansion	5	December 2025	3 Marine sites continued to advance in 2024-25, with the goal of full protection for one site by 2028 and on other sites by 2030.
					Number of new marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures recognized	3	December 2025	5
				Protected and conserved areas are effectively managed and monitored	Percentage of <i>Oceans Act</i> Marine Protected Areas and marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures established by 2020 where management plans have been initiated	100%	December 2025	52.90%

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

					Percentage of <i>Oceans Act</i> Marine Protected Areas and marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures established by 2020 where monitoring plans have been initiated	100%	December 2025	26.47%
--	--	--	--	--	---	------	---------------	--------

**Theme A horizontal initiative activities**

Departments	Link to the department's Program Inventory	Horizontal initiative activity	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated to each horizontal initiative activity since the last renewal*	2024–25 Planned spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024–25 Actual spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024–25 Horizontal initiative activity expected result(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative performance indicator(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative activity target(s)	Date to achieve horizontal initiative activity target	2024–25 Actual results
DFO	Marine Planning and Conservation	Conservation of marine habitats and species as <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs and OECMs through regulation, management and evaluation	\$70,000,000	\$16,392,660	\$18,383,399	Industry, local communities, and external parties support the design of MPAs and OECMs	Number agreements signed that support industry, local communities, and external parties participation in, management and monitoring activities of MPAs and	15 per year	December 2025	19

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						OECMs				
			\$103,840,058	\$22,060,245	\$25,989,283		Number of advisory committees established to support the design of a proposed MPA	16	December 2025	9 <sup>1</sup>
			\$103,840,058	\$22,060,245	\$3,930,235 <sup>2</sup>	Required analyses are developed to support the designation of areas	Number of socio-economic, and cultural assessments and risk analyses developed to support the designation of areas	38	December 2025	2 <sup>3</sup>
			\$798,735	\$165,043	\$896,400	MPA effectiveness is measured nationally	Number of site specific reports completed	14	December 2025	14

<sup>1</sup> Of the 14 proposed MPAs in 2024-25, advisory committees have been established / are in progress for 9, 4 are not yet initiated, and 1 is not applicable

<sup>2</sup> Site establishment is progressing at the pace, interest, and capacity available with partners, noting there were delays as the program launched during COVID, limiting some engagement capacity. At the same time, the Department addressed a requirement for reduced spending, changes to coding in corporate systems, and scaling up the Marine Conservation Target initiative with temporary funding. At the same time, staff resources were dedicated to support additional initiatives. In summary, the MCT initiative overall financial variance for identified surplus is currently being assessed as part of a horizontal evaluation with findings on the contributing factors to be released in 2025-26.

<sup>3</sup> Of the 14 proposed sites in 2024-25, a socio-economic and cultural assessment has been completed for 1, with 7 more in progress and 6 yet to be initiated. Of the 14 proposed sites in 2024-25, a risk assessment has been completed for 1, with 4 more in progress, 7 not yet initiated and 2 not applicable.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

	Conservation & Protection		\$62,929,814	\$11,130,216	\$12,428,880	Enforcement training programs for marine conservation initiatives are developed and delivered	Percentage of Conservation & Protection officers with training and education on marine conservation measures	15%	December 2025	Data not available <sup>4</sup>
						Increased surveillance and enforcement for MPAs and OECMs via a pilot project	Percentage of <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs with up-to-date enforcement plans completed and in place by 2025	25%	December 2025	93% <sup>5</sup>
	Ecosystems & Oceans Sciences		\$108,779,546	\$25,153,570	\$29,977,784	Data is collected to support establishment and management of MPAs and OECMs	Percentage of scheduled science advisory processes on MPAs and OECMs that were completed	100%	December 2025	87% <sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The national roll-out for this training initiative was delayed in 2024-25, namely due to staff turnover and vacancies.

<sup>5</sup> 13 of the 14 *Oceans Act* MPAs have up-to-date Enforcement Plans in place.

The program launched an updated national approach for its plans and will continue to monitor their effectiveness.

<sup>6</sup> DFO Science provided peer-reviewed advice on six of seven requested topics related to planning and/or management of MPAs/OECMs in 2024-25. The complexity of some processes increases the time required for data acquisition and analyses in some cases, which can require more than one year to plan and deliver. While the result within year did not meet the target in fiscal year 2024-25, the final process (7 of 7) was completed in June 2025.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

ECCC	Habitat Conservation and Protection	Protection of wildlife habitat as National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, and conservation areas through regulation, management, and evaluation	\$9,981,518	\$2,487,853	\$2,444,424	ECCC network of Protected Areas is expanded	Total area of habitat protected as ECCC National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, and Conservation Areas (Hab-32)	14,375 km <sup>2</sup>	December 2025	151,074 km <sup>2</sup> <sup>7</sup>
						ECCC network of Protected Areas is effectively managed	Effective management of the ECCC Protected Areas network (average performance of all sites), as assessed by the application of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (Hab-24)	90%	December 2025	N/A - evaluation conducted every 3 years <sup>8</sup>
	Central Charges	-	\$673,204	\$150,908	\$150,908	-	-	-	-	

<sup>7</sup> 31,072 km<sup>2</sup> of 151,074 km<sup>2</sup> is marine habitat.

<sup>8</sup> Most recent result was 60.7% in 2023-24.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

PC	Heritage Places Establishment	Expand and conserve Canada's network of protected areas through NMCA Establishment and Monitoring	\$48,166,686	\$12,682,384	\$11,951,010	Heritage places are established	Number of new National Marine Conservation Areas established or with demonstrable progress towards establishment	9	December 2025	Feasibility assessments were completed for two proposed national marine conservation areas and MOUs were signed with partners to formally begin the negotiations on establishment agreements for two sites. An Agreement-in-Principle was signed for one site. MOUs were signed to begin feasibility for one site, and one site was jointly found not to be feasible. Work continued to advance on the feasibility
----	-------------------------------	---	--------------	--------------	--------------	---------------------------------	--	---	---------------	--

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

										assessment stage of the establishment process for three proposed national marine conservation areas.
CIRNAC	Northern and Arctic Environmental Sustainability	Establishment and Management of MPAs and OECS	\$10,584,480	\$3,846,345	\$3,420,718	Regional initiatives are informed by science, Indigenous Knowledge, monitoring and stakeholder input	Percentage of Research, harvest and monitoring studies will serve to inform the establishment and management of conservation sites in the Eastern Arctic	100%	December 2025	N/A - Target date is in 2025-26
TC	Protecting Oceans and Waterways	MPA and OECS Establishment and Management	\$26,541,417	\$5,867,115	\$5,316,748	Potential threats to marine conservation from vessel traffic in MPAs and OECS are addressed	Percentage of new or expanded MPAs and OECS in which marine transportation is identified as a risk, that have measures in place to reduce the	100%	December 2025	100%

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

							impacts of vessel traffic while maintaining safe and efficient marine transportation			
NRCan	Geoscience for Sustainable Development of Natural Resources, Energy Safety and Security and Petroleum Resource Energy and Climate Change Policy Provision of Federal Leadership in the Minerals and Metals Sector	MPA and OECM Establishment and Management	\$654,651	\$140,430	\$175,911	<i>Accord Acts</i> are updated with provincial partners so that prohibitions on oil and gas in MPAs can be included in the <i>Accord Acts</i> , thereby strengthening protections of these sites	Number of proposed changes to the <i>Accord Acts</i> with provincial partners that support strengthened protection of MPAs established in <i>Accord Act</i> offshore area	4 amendments proposed	March 2025	All proposed marine conservation related amendments to the <i>Accord Acts</i> were introduced in Parliament through Bill C-49, which received Royal Assent on October 3, 2024 <sup>9</sup>
			\$14,867,972	\$3,042,099	\$2,403,040	Petroleum, mineral, economic and socioeconomic assessments to inform management decisions on the establishment of marine	Number of assessments that are conducted which inform management decisions for the establishment of new marine	20	December 2025	8 qualitative and 1 quantitative resource assessments completed  4 economic assessments completed

<sup>9</sup> Bill C-49 (Amendments to the *Accord Acts*) received royal assent on October 3, 2024. As per the joint management framework established under the *Accord Acts*, both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador approved provincial mirror versions of Bill C-49 in fiscal year 2024-25. Marine conservation related Bill C-49 provisions came into force on January 31, 2025 in Nova Scotia, and June 2, 2025 in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						conservation areas, thereby contributing to the expansion of Canada's network of protected areas	conservation areas proposed by DFO, ECCC or Parks Canada			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Theme B details**

Name of theme	Total federal theme funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024–25 Federal theme planned spending	2024–25 Federal theme actual spending	Theme outcome(s)	Theme performance indicator(s)	Theme target(s)	Date to achieve theme target	2024–25 Actual results
Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Western Arctic	\$43,196,441	\$8,090,491	\$5,398,422	Governance is stabilized within a Marine Spatial Planning framework	Percentage of key planning partners engaged in a Marine Spatial Planning governance structure	100%	2025	Data not available
				Science and knowledge products are developed to inform Marine Spatial Planning	Number of new socio-economic analyses conducted to inform a marine spatial plan	1	2025	1
					Percentage of planned data sets that are integrated into online platforms to inform spatial planning efforts	100%	2025	100%

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Theme B horizontal initiative activities**

Departments	Link to the department's Program Inventory	Horizontal initiative activity	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated to each horizontal initiative activity since the last renewal*	2024–25 Planned spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024–25 Actual spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024–25 Horizontal initiative activity expected result(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative performance indicator(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative activity target(s)	Date to achieve horizontal initiative activity target	2024–25 Actual results
DFO	Marine Planning and Conservation	Initiating MSP in the Western Arctic	\$9,994,431	\$2,024,258	\$1,116,398	Collaborative governance structures are established in the Western Arctic	Number of established collaborative governance structures in Western Arctic	1	December 2025	Data not available <sup>10</sup>
			\$11,143,216	\$2,256,932	\$1,004,066	Existing scientific and socio-economic data are collated and analyzed to support MSP decision making in the Western	Percentage of priority data gaps that are filled to support planning processes for identifying	75%	December 2025	Data not available <sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Met with partners to discuss Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) membership in April but discussion was not resolved. As such, the governance forum required for marine planning was not re-established in 2024-25.

<sup>11</sup> Data gap analysis was run on available data sets on the geospatial platform. Open data sets were then identified based on the data gap analysis results. DFO started planning a data workshop late in the fiscal year with the actual workshop occurring on May 7, 2025. Once data layers from the workshop are reviewed this indicator will have data associated with it.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						Arctic	future conservation sites for the Western Arctic.			
ECCC	Habitat Conservation and Protection	Initiating MSP in the Western Arctic	\$1,154,942	\$257,532	\$156,144	ECCC network of protected areas grows to support the conservation of important biodiversity areas	Total area of key habitat sites integrated into the marine spatial plan	28,750 km <sup>2</sup>	December 2025	N/A <sup>12</sup>
	Central Charges	-	\$108,987	\$25,381	\$25,381	-	-	-	-	
PC	Heritage Places Establishment	Engage with partners and communities in the Western Arctic to validate areas that have been targeted for protection through MSP	\$770,298	\$176,653	\$15,724	MSP process identifies candidate NMCA sites	Number of candidate NMCA sites identified through marine spatial planning process	1	December 2025	As marine spatial planning work has not proceeded for the Western Arctic, no sites have been identified
TC	Environmental Stewardship of Transportation	Initiating MSP in the Western Arctic	\$1,575,305	\$357,462	\$352,932	Marine spatial planning and conservation is advanced by Transport Canada's participation in a collaborative	Number of established collaborative governance structures in Western Arctic that Transport Canada	1	December 2025	1

<sup>12</sup> To be reported once - at end of initiative.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						approach and informed by technical expertise	participates in			
CIRNAC	Northern and Arctic Environmental Sustainability	Initiating MSP in the Western Arctic	\$10,584,480	\$1,282,115	\$1,553,960	Regional initiatives are informed by science, Indigenous Knowledge, monitoring and stakeholder input	Percentage of Research, harvest and monitoring studies will serve to inform MSP in the Western Arctic	100%	December 2025	N/A - Target date is in 2025-26
NRCan	Energy Safety and Security, and Petroleum Resources	Initiating MSP in the Western Arctic	\$2,530,327	\$519,841	\$508,002	Science-based information and knowledge products related to oil accumulation in Arctic waters are developed to inform marine spatial planning in the Western Arctic	Number of science-based presentations, publications, and research reports used by departments to inform marine spatial plans in the Western Arctic	3 per year	December 2025	2 science-based knowledge products
			\$350,000	\$50,000	\$45,940	Equipment is acquired by CanmetENERGY Devon to support scientific research related to marine spatial planning in the Western Arctic	Number of pieces of equipment acquired to support scientific research related to marine spatial planning	5	December 2022	N/A <sup>13</sup>

**Commented [PQ1]:** This is the correct footnote for DRR 2024-25

<sup>13</sup> Target achieved in December 2022 with 5 items acquired.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Theme C details**

Name of theme	Total federal theme funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024–25 Federal theme planned spending	2024–25 Actual theme planned spending	Theme outcome(s)	Theme performance indicator(s)	Theme target(s)	Date to achieve theme target	2024–25 Actual results
Advancing Reconciliation	\$132,114,598	\$30,046,699	\$26,687,845	Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous peoples	Number of Indigenous groups funded to participate in marine conservation and management activities.	15 per year	December 2025	42
				Indigenous peoples are engaged in collaborative decision-making and management bodies	Percentage of affected Indigenous groups participating in collaborative governance bodies.	100%	December 2025	77%
					Number of new federal sites with active (i.e. ongoing and/or planned activities) co-management agreements.	24	December 2025	DFO: 5 PC: 8 NMCA projects in co-development with Indigenous partners

**Theme C horizontal initiative activities**

Departments	Link to the department's Program Inventory	Horizontal initiative activity	Total federal funding, including legacy funding,	2024–25 Planned spending for each horizontal initiative	2024–25 Actual spending for each horizontal initiative	2024–25 Horizontal initiative expected result(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative performance indicator(s)	2024–25 Horizontal initiative target(s)	Date to achieve horizontal initiative target	2024–25 Actual results
-------------	--	--------------------------------	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	------------------------

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

			allocated to each horizontal initiative activity since the last renewal*	activity	activity					
DFO	Marine Planning and Conservation	Building capacity for Indigenous groups to participate in marine planning and conservation activities	\$81,700,000	\$19,129,140	\$16,980,948 <sup>14</sup>	Indigenous peoples are supported to participate in governance, management and monitoring activities	Number of agreements signed with Indigenous groups that relate to MSP, MPA and OECM management and monitoring activities	15 per year	December 2025	48
			\$3,700,000	\$850,000	\$0		Number of memorandums of understanding signed for collaborative management of MPAs and OECMs	10	December 2025	0 <sup>15</sup>
		Establishing IBA	\$12,927,193	\$2,436,961	\$1,395,859	Protocols in support of IBAs are	Number of protocols	2	December 2025	2

<sup>14</sup> The Department addressed a requirement for reduced spending, changes to coding in corporate systems, and scaling up the Marine Conservation Target initiative with temporary funding. At the same time, staff resources were dedicated to support additional initiatives. In summary, the MCT initiative overall financial variance for identified surplus is currently being assessed as part of a horizontal evaluation with findings on the contributing factors to be released in 2025-26.

<sup>15</sup> No new MoUs were signed; however, 1 Terms of Reference was signed in Arctic Region, for the St. Anns Bank co-governance planning group, and 18 collaborative agreements were signed in the Pacific Region, for the marine protected areas within the Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

		Negotiating Capacity				developed in collaboration with the respective Designated Inuit Organization	developed			
			\$3,600,000	\$900,000	\$960,480	Inuit organizations are engaged to have exploratory discussions as per their respective Modern Treaties obligations	Number of contribution agreements entered into that support Inuit participation in negotiating IBAs	3	December 2025	2
ECCC	Habitat Conservation and Protection	Enabling the participation of Indigenous peoples in the establishment, management, and monitoring of protected areas, other effective conservation measures, and Indigenous conserved and protected areas with contribution	\$8,943,876	\$2,239,627	\$868,837	Indigenous people are engaged in conservation activities.	Percentage of Indigenous people engaged with ECCC who indicate that the engagement was meaningful (Bio-12)	61%	April 2026	76%
							Number of indigenous-led projects supported (Hab-48)	5	March 2026	8 agreements

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

		funding								
	Central Charges	-	\$506,103	\$116,623	\$116,623	-	-	-	-	
PC	Heritage Places Establishment	Investigate, with Indigenous partners, potential methods of fostering joint or contiguous national parks/national marine protected areas and co-designation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas	\$269,988	\$67,068	\$182,845	Indigenous peoples are engaged in establishment activities and proposals that result in agreements to establish and manage new sites	Feasibility assessments launched and completed in collaboration with Indigenous organizations. Negotiation of co-management arrangements within establishment agreements	100% of feasibility assessments for establishment projects are completed in collaboration with Indigenous organizations	December 2025	Parks Canada is not currently negotiating Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements for establishment of protected areas in the eastern Arctic. Work on the Talluruptiup Imanga interim management plan consultations is covered in this theme to finalize the establishment of the NMCA.
TC	Indigenous Partnerships and Engagement	Establishing IBA Negotiating Capacity	\$13,563,200	\$2,780,772	\$1,540,652	Indigenous groups are enabled to negotiate as full partners to address marine transportation matters in Impact and	Percentage of IBAs negotiated that include articles outlining marine transportation impacts and benefits for Inuit groups	80%	December 2025	80%

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						Benefit Agreements	and communities			
						Marine transportation matters are addressed through the negotiation of Impact and Benefit Agreements	Percentage of IBAs negotiated that included Transport Canada's participation in whole-of-government negotiations teams	80%	December 2025	80%

**Total spending, all themes**

	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024–25 total federal planned spending	2024–25 total federal actual spending
<b>Theme A: Establishment, Monitoring, and Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)</b>	\$667,310,512	\$150,421,088	\$140,332,796
<b>Theme B: Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Western Arctic</b>	\$43,196,441	\$8,090,491	\$5,398,422
<b>Theme C: Advancing Reconciliation</b>	\$132,114,598	\$30,046,699	\$26,687,845
<b>Total, all themes</b>	<b>\$842,621,551</b>	<b>\$188,558,279</b>	<b>\$172,419,063</b>

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

## **Funding to protect and promote the health of Canada's priority at-risk whale populations**

### **Lead department**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

### **Federal partner departments**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Transport Canada (TC); Parks Canada (PC)

### **Start date**

2023-24

### **End date**

2025-26

### **Description**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Parks Canada are investing \$153.6 million over three years to renew previous activities focused on protecting the North Atlantic right whale (NARW), Southern Resident killer whale (SRKW), and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga (SLEB), their prey and ecosystems. The proposed activities under this Initiative seek to renew science and technology investments and to renew whale intervention programming, including the coordination, implementation and enforcement of management interventions to ensure evidence based decision making. The residual risk of this initiative is low.

### **Governance structures**

To ensure a whole-of-government approach and complimentary application with other related initiatives, in particular SARA Recovery Strategies and the Ocean Protection Plan, an interdepartmental Assistant Deputy Minister-level oversight committee was created under Whales Initiative 1.0 with ADMs from all responsible departments. The ADM Committee oversees the inter-departmental roll-out of whale programming and allows for the monitoring of progress against plans and anticipated results to help identify and manage implementation risks.

To ensure the continued coordination and collaboration between federal partners for Whales Initiative 2.0, DFO continues to lead these meetings on a bi-annual basis with the intention of providing strong policy and implementation advice; supporting cross-departmental coordination; ensuring processes are in place to implement, monitor and communicate action, progress and risk on priority whale populations; and identify issues that require Deputy Minister engagement.

The ADM Committee is also responsible for resolving disputes or any other issues that may arise that may lead to inaccurate performance or financial reporting. This includes providing strategic direction to ensure that results are achieved on-time and within budget, including directing any necessary adjustments to the implementation of WI 2.0, liaising with central agencies and ensuring that major reporting issues that arise are reported to TBS. The Committee also systematically reviews the continued use of a reporting dashboard developed for measuring, monitoring and assessing the progress of specific initiatives; including assessment(s) of WI 2.0 and/or specific initiatives. This continues to be led through DFO's National Program Whales Team, which is further outlined above. The ADM Committee would use the following method to decide which level disputes need to be dealt at:

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

High Impact Issue	Lead Department Action
Performance information has been or will be inaccurately reported	Resolve at the ADM committee level
Financial information has been or will be inaccurately reported	Advise TBS on the issue and resolution
Questions may arise in an evaluation or audit	If it cannot be resolved, address with TBS

In order to effectively manage and ensure progress, the Committee continues to be supported by an interdepartmental Director General level sub-committee to oversee horizontal initiatives, led by DFO and developed through WI 1.0. To help oversee, provide direction, and coordinate amongst departments to ensure a whole-of government approach in implementing WI 2.0, the DFO-led Whales Executive Committee is supported by cross-Government coordination teams to provide support and coordination for the DG and ADM oversight Committees.

In order to support DG and ADM oversight Committees, departments work together to ensure policy coherence between partners and reflect each department's mandate through the existing working groups. While each department conducts work specific to its mandate, federal partners collaborate through existing programming, as outlined above, and existing governance mechanisms to ensure coordination between partners of shared information, resources and integration of overlapping interest or legislative accountability.

As an example of policy coherence noted above, on the West Coast, multiple interdepartmental working groups consisting of representatives from DFO (the regulator); TC (for the work on vessel measures), ECCC (for their work on contaminants) and PC (for their work on enforcement and outreach around interim sanctuary zones) regularly meets to ensure a whole of government approach to protect SRKW. This includes the Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), and Technical Working Groups (focusing on prey, contaminants and acoustic and physical disturbance of vessels) which consists of a large range of stakeholders and Indigenous partners, including representatives from marine industry, non-governmental organizations, provincial government and academia, who meet to ensure the proper implementation and maintenance of existing management measures to protect SRKW.

Continued coordination between partner departments ensures a consistent Government of Canada approach to whale conservation and aids in alleviating previous challenges identified by stakeholders regarding a lack of cohesion in whales- related programming across jurisdictions.

Each participating department has in place its own internal mechanisms for ensuring accountability for its respective results under this initiative.

**Total federal funding allocated (from start to end date) (dollars)**

\$153,640,816

**Total federal planned spending to date (dollars)**

\$96,369,154

**Total federal actual spending to date (dollars)**

\$84,901,886

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

**Date of last renewal of the horizontal initiative**

Not applicable

**Total federal funding allocated at the last renewal, and source of funding (dollars)**

Not applicable

**Additional federal funding received after the last renewal (dollars)**

Not applicable

**Total planned spending since the last renewal**

Not applicable

**Total actual spending since the last renewal**

Not applicable

**Fiscal year of planned completion of next evaluation**

No planned evaluation, but the last evaluation was completed in 2022-23.

**Performance highlights**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

DFO has continued to reduce threats to North Atlantic Right Whale and Southern Resident killer whales through fishery closures and response to incidents. For NARW, this includes dynamic and static fishery closures when NARW are detected on the East Coast and advancements in innovative whalesafe gear modifications, to reduce the threat and severity of entanglement. For SRKW, this includes continued fishing closures implemented in identified SRKW key foraging areas to support prey availability on the West Coast and launching the amendment process of the Marine Mammal Regulations to increase approach distances for SRKW to reduce physical and acoustic disturbance from vessels. Additionally, both species, as well as other large whale species, will continue to benefit through the Marine Mammal Response Program Capacity Building Fund. This fund seeks to build capacity across Canada for safe, effective, and timely marine mammal incident response.

Transport Canada (TC)

From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Ocean Wise significantly expanded and strengthened the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS), which is funded by TC. Generating 38,594 alerts, informing 126 registered organizations of whale presence, with a 39% increase in Whale Report submissions and a 27% increase in Whale Report app downloads

*For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report*

Provided in-kind support to International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretariat to support submissions under the current 3-year Experience Building Phase for the Revised Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Radiated Noise from Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life (approved 2023)

Under the Quiet Vessel Initiative, TC funded three additional technology trials to help reduce underwater vessel noise.

#### Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

Completed the second year of WI 2.0 monitoring programs in freshwater and sediment, wastewater, and air to improve our understanding of the sources and possible impacts to whales and their prey. ECCC's Enforcement is continuing to carry out targeted inspections under the Fisheries Act and Canadian Environmental Protection Act for the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) and for the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga (SLEB) and as of March 31, 2025, Enforcement is reporting 75% of non-compliance has been addressed by enforcement action. ECCC is on track to meet the 2026 target of five engagement opportunities and has successfully completed four engagement opportunities to date during WI 2.0, with two during 2024-25.

#### Parks Canada (PC)

Park wardens continued to conduct patrols in partnership with DFO and RCMP, and made 22 referrals to Transport Canada for possible Administrative Monetary Penalties. Parks Canada has an information sharing agreement with DFO. This agreement enhances enforcement response and coordination.

PC continued its efforts in law enforcement (e.g., on-water surveillance patrols), compliance promotion and outreach, science and monitoring (e.g., implementing actions identified in PC SRKW Conservation Plans), and support for Indigenous stewardship. PC supported Indigenous-led marine stewardship programs in and around Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands National Park Reserves through conservation agreements with First Nations, with activities reflecting each community's priorities. In Fall 2024, PC collaborated with two First Nations to assess the status of Chinook and Chum Salmon populations in the Klanawa River system, within and adjacent to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. In Gulf Islands National Park Reserve land-based whale surveys to help reduce underwater noise were piloted. In 2024-25, PC outreach and education staff engaged priority audiences (anglers and mariners) at major boat shows in Vancouver and Seattle, partnered with the Canada Border Services Agency to share information on nearby SRKW Interim Sanctuary Zones, and established new Whale Trail sites featuring interpretive signage, Indigenous artwork, and audio stories that promote awareness and encourage land-based whale watching.

#### **Contact information**

Jennifer Buie, [Jennifer.buie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.buie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Shared outcomes:**

Protection of North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga, their prey and environment from harmful human activities.

Name of theme	Theme A: Strengthening science-based evidence and expanding technology driven solutions	Theme B: Coordinating, implementing, and enforcing management measures to safeguard priority at-risk whale populations and habitats	Internal Services
Theme outcome(s)	Scientific research is provided to inform decision-makers to protect North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga populations, their prey and environment are in contact with less harmful human activities	n/a
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	\$27,787,112	\$22,129,422	\$12,600,607
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	\$5,272,818	\$4,169,491	\$1,190,182
Transport Canada (TC)	\$27,404,146 (including internal services)	\$46,275,705 (including internal services)	n/a
Parks Canada (PC)	\$1,357,829	\$4,948,512	\$504,992

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Performance information**

**Horizontal initiative overview**

Name of horizontal initiative	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024-25 Planned spending	2024-25 Actual spending	Horizontal initiative shared outcome(s)	2024-25 Performance indicator(s)	2024-25 Target(s)	Date to achieve target	2024-25 Actual results
Funding to Protect and Promote the Health of Canada's Priority At-risk Whale Populations	\$153,640,816	\$56,447,462	\$52,804,983	North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga populations are on track for recovery according to the SARA recovery strategies	Number of endangered whale populations that, when reassessed, have trends consistent with the recovery goal and/or population and distribution objectives laid out in the recovery strategies	3	March 2026	Date for achieving this target is 2026. Data is not yet available to support interim reporting.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Theme A details**

Name of theme	Total federal theme funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024-25 Federal theme planned spending	2024-25 Federal theme Actual spending	Theme outcome(s)	Theme performance indicator(s)	Theme target(s)	Date to achieve theme target	2024-25 Actual results
Strengthening science-based evidence and expanding technology driven solutions	\$71,377,376	\$26,635,511	\$26,327,311	Scientific research is provided to inform decision-makers to protect North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	Percentage of requests met for targeted near real-time North Atlantic right whale aerial surveillance and/or acoustic monitoring to meet specific management (client) needs	90% of requests actioned	March 2026	100% of requests were met, when possible, during the time that DFO Science was able to fly (all Science aerial operations ceased after a plane crash on August 9th, 2024 until October 4th, 2024). DFO Science completed additional acoustic surveillance early and later in the season on the Scotian Shelf to align with the opening of the lobster fishery. All grid clearance requests were met, when possible, and additional flights were tasked to survey during special cases, such as shallow water detections.
					Number of total successful technology trials aimed at reducing the impact of vessel underwater noise of at-risk whales (whale, Southern Resident killer	9 technology trials	March 2026	Three new technology trials aimed at reducing underwater noise of at-risk whales were conducted under Whales Initiative 2.0 in 2024-25. Technologies tested include:

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

					whale, and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga)					development of an engineering tool to predict noise and vibration onboard vessels; development of a test platform and evaluate ways to reduce underwater noise generated by machinery on board ships; and development of a machine learning framework to predict nearfield vessel noise. Total technologies tested underwater since 2023-24 is 8.
--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	---

**Theme A horizontal initiative activities**

Departments	Link to the department's Program Inventory	Horizontal initiative activity	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated to each horizontal initiative activity since the last renewal*	2024-25 Planned spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024-25 Actual spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024-25 Horizontal initiative activity expected result(s)	2024-25 Horizontal initiative performance indicator(s)	2024-25 Horizontal initiative activity target(s)	Date to achieve horizontal initiative activity target	2024-25 Actual results
-------------	--	--------------------------------	---	--	---	---	--	--	---	------------------------

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

DFO	Aquatic Ecosystem Science	Whale Science Research Program	\$27,787,112	\$11,941,408	\$11,909,661	North Atlantic right whale aerial surveys and near real-time acoustic monitoring in Canadian are meeting both scientific and management (client) needs	Percentage of requests met by DFO Science for targeted near real-time North Atlantic right whale aerial surveillance and/or acoustic monitoring to meet specific management (client) needs	90%	March 2026	100% <sup>16</sup>
							Percentage of total North Atlantic right whale flying hours directed to fishing grid clearance, whale disentanglement support, and other management (client) related requests	Baseline: 40% of total flying hours Target: 40% of total flight hours		39% <sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> 100% of requests were met, when possible, during the time that DFO Science was able to fly (all Science aerial operations ceased after a plane crash on August 9th, 2024 until October 4th, 2024). DFO Science completed additional acoustic surveillance early and later in the season on the Scotian Shelf to align with the opening of the lobster fishery. All grid clearance requests were met, when possible, and additional flights were tasked to survey during special cases, such as shallow water detections.

<sup>17</sup> 39%; 306/781 hours of flights in 2024 were dedicated to management related requests (i.e., grid clearance, disentanglement support, or other). This is less than previous years, and the target, as Science had to end flights for the season following the tragic plane crash in August 2024.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

						Number of DFO Science led acoustic glider missions* dedicated to surveying North Atlantic right whale in Canadian waters  *mission is defined as a continuous 3 week period	12 missions		7 <sup>18</sup>
					Scientific evidence is provided to support protection measures for North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	Number scientific publications/reports related to key knowledge gaps for the North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	12 publications		14 <sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> In 2024, 4 operational glider missions took place in eastern Canadian waters, reporting detections in near real-time, bringing the total over the first two years of the Whales Initiative 2.0 to 7. A spring mission took place in Roseway Basin, a summer mission to Emerald Basin, and two fall missions to Roseway Basin, including a multi-glider experimental mission in partnership with JASCO. This indicator is on track to meet the target at the end of the reporting period.

<sup>19</sup> In 2024, a total of 6 publications on the target species were published, bringing the total over the first two years of the Whales Initiative 2.0 to 14. In total, 5 CSAS publications on NARW and 1 CSAS publication for SLEB were published in FY 2024-25.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

TC	M60	Understanding Underwater Vessel Noise in the Context of Southern Resident killer whale, North Atlantic right whale, St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	\$14,480,481	\$5,689,938	\$6,022,160	Vessel types, technologies and operational practices are measured and assessed to mitigate anthropogenic threats to whales	Number of total successful technology trials aimed at reducing the impact of vessel underwater noise of at-risk whales (North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale, St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga)	9 technology trials	March 2024, 2025, and 2026	8 of the 9 total technology trials conducted (5 in 2023-24 and 3 new trials in 2024-25)
		Engineering, Science, and Research Support for the Implementation of Seasonal East and West Coast Vessel Measures	\$12,923,665	\$4,286,700	\$3,389,530	Increased monitoring of whales and vessels interactions to better inform management action, and increased data storage.	Number of gigabytes (Gb) of data generated across all deployed devices to inform of the presence of whales (baseline to be determined annually) on the East Coast	Baseline: 60Gb / year Target: 60Gb / year		142Gb 54% increase over 2024 (92Gb)

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

ECCC	Air Quality; Aquatic Ecosystems Health, Substance and Waste Management	Environmental Monitoring: Advancing Vital Contaminant Data Collection in the Pacific and Quebec Region	\$5,272,818	\$1,786,926	1,570,751	Scientific evidence is available to support the establishment of management measures	Number of science products on contaminants in the environment and their transmission to regulators.	Baseline: 0 Target: 5 science products	March 2026	1 <sup>20</sup>
PC	Heritage Places Conservation	Science and Monitoring in Critical Whale Habitats overlapping with Parks Canada managed protected areas	\$1,357,829	\$669,412	\$618,851	Heritage places are managed responsibly	Percentage of actions in Parks Canada conservation plans that are implemented (for Southern Resident killer whale )	100%	March 2026	100% <sup>21</sup>

**Theme B details**

Name of theme	Total federal theme funding, including legacy funding,	2024-25 Federal theme planned spending	2024-25 Federal theme actual	Theme outcome(s)	Theme performance indicator(s)	Theme target(s)	Date to achieve theme target	2024-25 Actual results
---------------	--	--	------------------------------	------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------	------------------------------	------------------------

<sup>20</sup> ECCC is on track to meet the 2026 target of producing five science products and has produced two to date. The first product was from 2023-24.

<sup>21</sup> Parks Canada continues to implement its Southern Resident Killer Whale conservation plans in collaboration with others. These plans guide marine conservation programs in Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands National Park Reserves. Key actions include studies on SRKW distribution and demography, nearshore biodiversity, pinniped population dynamics and diet, forage fish habitat, and salmon populations in priority stream systems within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Where feasible and appropriate, Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and priorities are integrated into research and monitoring efforts across the Park Reserves.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

	allocated since the last renewal*		spending					
Coordinating, implementing, and enforcing management measures to safeguard priority at-risk whale populations and habitats	\$82,263,440	\$29,811,951	\$26,477,672	North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga populations, their prey and environment are in contact with less harmful human activities	Percentage of verified human caused mortalities for North Atlantic right whale, Southern Resident killer whale and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga	0% increase in North Atlantic right whale mortalities	March 2026	0%
						0% increase in Southern Resident killer whale mortalities		0%
						0% increase in St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga mortalities		0%

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

**Theme B horizontal initiative activities**

Departments	Link to the department's Program Inventory	Horizontal initiative activity	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated to each horizontal initiative activity since the last renewal*	2024-25 Planned spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024-25 Actual spending for each horizontal initiative activity	2024-25 Horizontal initiative activity expected result(s)	2024-25 Horizontal initiative activity performance indicator(s)	2024-25 Horizontal initiative activity target(s)	Date to achieve horizontal initiative activity target	2024-25 Actual results
DFO	Marine Communications and Traffic Services	Marine Mammal Desk	\$8,437,539	\$3,159,740	\$2,567,982	Government of Canada at-risk whale education and enforcement activities are effectively supported to mitigate vessel interactions with whales.	Percentage of non-compliant vessel data provided to TC, PC and DFO in accordance with the Interim Order for the Protection of the Killer Whale ( <i>Orcinus orca</i> ) in southern British Columbia waters	100%	March 2026	100% - 501 Interim Order contraventions filed
			\$496,286	\$351,088	\$12,298				March 2026	100% - 294 Interim Order contraventions files

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

							DFO in accordance with the Interim Order for the Protection of North Atlantic right whales			
	Conservation and Protection	Conservation and Protection	\$6,017,331	\$2,777,027	\$1,838,264	Fisheries, oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are protected from unlawful exploitation and interference	Percentage of incidents and inspection activities that have resulted in compliance actions or otherwise for killer whales (Disaggregate by region)	At most 60%	March 2026	4.1% (243/10)
	Fisheries Management	Pacific Marine Mammal Hub	\$1,264,410	\$524,030	\$2,220,999	Human-induced threats to at-risk whale populations, their prey and environment are reduced	Percentage of fishing closures implemented in identified Southern Resident killer whale key foraging areas to support prey availability	50%	March 2026	83% <sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> SRKW prey related Salmon closures are implemented on an annual bases. Consistent with previous years, the 2024 commercial and recreational salmon fishing closures in key SRKW foraging areas were developed as part of this process and received Ministerial approval in April 2024. Salmon fishing closures are located in four areas identified to be SRKW foraging areas.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

		Marine Mammal Response Program	\$3,931,072	\$1,483,331		Response program and partners are equipped and have capacity to respond to observed incidents.	Percentage of capacity proposals funded vs capacity proposals received (Disaggregate by region)	25% of proposals received are funded each year		92% <sup>23</sup>
		National Program Whales Team	\$1,982,784	\$737,596		Entanglement threats to North Atlantic Right Whale are reduced	Percentage change in number of verified entanglements of North Atlantic right whale in Canadian fishing gear	"Baseline: Average of 3/year (2020-2023) Target: 0% change from 2022 baseline"		133.33% <sup>24</sup>
		Atlantic Marine Mammal Hub								
TC	M60	Addressing Vessel Impacts: Pacific Region	\$14,971,159	\$4,961,652	\$4,232,849	Reduction of vessel related risks to Southern Resident killer whale and North Atlantic right whale	Percentage decrease in the number of vessel incident reports in the sanctuary and speed restricted zones, identified through Canadian	Baseline: 1127 incident reports (2022) Target: 2% annually	March 2024, 2025, and 2026	11% increase  The number of incident reports identified through the Marine Mammal Desk and other sources were 1521, demonstrating

<sup>23</sup> For 2024-25 the MMRP received 12 proposals for the capacity building fund, with 11 of them meeting the program priorities for funding. 5 proposals were received for Atlantic Canada and Quebec, and 7 proposals (including the one not funded) were from Pacific.

<sup>24</sup> For 2024-25 there were 6 NARW entanglements first sighted in Canadian waters and one entanglement first sighted in US waters but linked to Canadian gear once a gear analysis was completed. Out of the 6 documented entanglements in Canadian waters, one entanglement was confirmed as Canadian gear through a gear analysis, with the remaining 5 entanglements were unable to be confirmed as Canadian gear as a gear analysis was not possible.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

							Coast Guard Marine Mammal Desk reports, to support the reduction of physical and acoustic disturbance of Southern Resident killer whales			an 11% increase (or 152 more notifications) than in 2023 where the number was 1369 (baseline changes to previous year).
							Increase in the number of compliance monitoring and enforcement actions taken against vessels within the sanctuary and speed restricted zones, to support the reduction of physical and acoustic disturbance of Southern Resident killer	Baseline: 42 (weighted score, actual enforcement actions is 157 for 2022) Target: 5% Increase		211% increase <sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> 211% increase in the number of compliance monitoring and enforcement actions taken against vessels within sanctuary and speed restricted zones. This drastic increase can be attributed to the creation of the Pacific Whale Enforcement Unit, a new team member, new team structure, streamlined procedures, and technological advancements which prevent fewer incidents from going unreported, and increasingly skilled personnel to log, track and respond to reports. 2024 represented the strongest year of enforcement to date.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

							whales			
		Addressing Vessel Impacts: Atlantic Region	\$31,304,547	\$10,142,330	\$9,649,975		Monitored vessels transiting Canadian waters maintain compliance with mandatory management measures, to reduce the threat of vessel collisions with at-risk whale populations	Baseline: 99% Target: 99%	March 2024 (on going), 2025, and 2026	99.97% <sup>26</sup>
							Increase percentage of participation in voluntary management measures, to reduce the threat of vessel collisions with at-risk whale populations	Baseline: 48% Target: 50%		75.9% <sup>27</sup>
ECCC	Compliance Promotion and Enforcement -	Enforcement Capacity for Contaminants	\$2,037,069	\$664,617	\$650,335	High-risk non-compliance	Percentage of non-compliance	Baseline: 0 Target:	2026	75%

<sup>26</sup> 99.97% of the 9313 vessels transiting the areas were compliant with the NARW 2024 mandatory management measures over the 30 weeks and 2 days they were in place.

<sup>27</sup> The cumulative participation rate has been stable over the past three years, with approximately 75% of vessels participating.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

	Pollution	to Uphold Regulatory Compliance				enforcement targets are identified (intelligence assessment) in at-risk whale ecosystems/ important areas	addressed by enforcement action (e.g. warning letter, AMP, direction, prosecution)	80%		
	Aquatic Ecosystems Health, Substance and Waste Management	Governance and Contaminants Program Delivery	\$2,132,422	\$705,666	\$688,234	Engagement with stakeholders on contaminants affecting whales enables the translation of knowledge to support the recovery of Southern Resident killer whale and SLEB	Number of engagement opportunities supporting the transmission of relevant knowledge on contaminants affecting whales to stakeholders	Baseline: 0 Target: 5	2026	2 <sup>28</sup>
PC	Heritage Places Conservation	Improving S Southern Resident killer whale oversight and Enforcement of Regulations in Parks Canada	\$1,611,306	\$795,620	\$702,866	Heritage places are managed responsibly  Natural and cultural resources in heritage	Number of hours of proactive law enforcement patrols related to Southern Resident killer whale	1,040 hours	March 2026	954 Hours

<sup>28</sup> ECCC is on track to meet the 2026 target of five engagement opportunities and has successfully completed 4 engagement opportunities to date.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

		Managed Protected Areas				places are maintained or improved				
		Conservation Actions for Southern Resident killer whale Critical Habitat Overlapping with Parks Canada Managed Protected Areas	\$3,337,206	\$1,621,003	\$1,636,226	Indigenous peoples actively participate in and contribute to the stewardship and conservation of heritage places	Number of heritage places where Indigenous peoples actively participate in stewardship of natural and cultural heritage of their traditional territories	2	March 2026	Target achieved  2 agreements are in place to support Indigenous-led marine stewardship
	Number of agreements in place that support Indigenous-led stewardship						7	March 2026	10	
	Visitors safely discover, experience, and enjoy Parks Canada places				Number of contacts reached through multimedia, outreach and interpretation initiatives relating to Southern	40,000	March 2026	47,236 <sup>29</sup>		

<sup>29</sup> Parks Canada continues to enhance awareness of Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) threats and protection measures through targeted outreach. In 2024-25, staff engaged priority audiences (anglers and mariners) at major boat shows in Vancouver and Seattle, partnered with the Canada Border Services Agency to share information on nearby SRKW Interim Sanctuary Zones, and delivered interpretive programs at Parks Canada places. Additionally, tens of thousands of visitors were exposed to at risk whale (incl. SRKW) messaging through Whale Trail sites located in Parks Canada places. These sites feature interpretive signage, Indigenous artwork, and audio stories that promote awareness and encourage land-based whale watching.

For publication as part of the 2024-25 Departmental Results Report

							Resident killer whale			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-----------------------	--	--	--

**Total spending, all themes**

	Total federal funding, including legacy funding, allocated since the last renewal*	2024–25 total federal planned spending	2024–25 total federal actual spending
<b>Theme A: Strengthening science-based evidence and expanding technology driven solutions</b>	\$71,377,376	\$26,635,511	\$26,327,311
<b>Theme B: Coordinating, implementing, and enforcing management measures to safeguard priority at-risk whale populations and habitats</b>	\$82,263,440	\$29,811,951	\$26,477,672