

The Harbours and Ports Division administers semi-commercial Canadian ports and provides advice on the development of new port facilities.

The Coast Guard Fleet provides icebreaking and cable-laying services, weather-ships for meteorological observation, vessels and helicopters for aids to navigation work and search and rescue equipment. Icebreakers are allocated on the basis of severity of weather conditions. During the winter on the east coast, day-to-day operations are conducted by an ice operations office in Sydney, NS. During summer Arctic operations the fleet is deployed jointly by Ottawa headquarters and an ice operations office at Frobisher Bay. The Coast Guard Fleet has one cable vessel which is under contract on a year-round basis and is stationed at St. John's, Nfld. The Coast Guard operates two weather-ships on the west coast which provide meteorological data from a position 900 miles (1 700 km) off the BC coast. These vessels operate rotationally. Buoy vessels and helicopters are provided to carry out aids to navigation work while smaller craft are also used for this purpose where possible.

The Department of National Defence coordinates Marine Search and Rescue Services with the cooperation of all government departments which operate ships. The Ministry of Transport operates a number of specialized vessels for search and rescue work which, during distress situations, are controlled by the coordinating authority. These vessels consist of cutters, lifeboats and one hovercraft. The cutters are normally deployed in patrol areas when not involved with an accident. Their operation is controlled from Halifax, Vancouver and Trenton.

The Pilotage Act, in effect since June 1971, decentralized the pilotage function by establishing four regional pilotage authorities as Crown corporations with wide powers to establish, operate and maintain, in the interest of safety, an efficient pilotage service within their region.

The four, created February 1, 1972 are: the Atlantic Pilotage Authority, the Laurentian Pilotage Authority, the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority and the Pacific Pilotage Authority. Each operates independently of the Canadian Coast Guard regional office in the same area because of their Crown corporation status. Each authority is responsible for adopting its own by-laws and regulations. Under the act, pilots may elect to be employees of the authority or their services may be provided to an authority on a contract basis. Each of the pilotage authorities is responsible for establishing its own tariffs.

Regional Marine Emergency Officers are responsible for invoking appropriate contingency plans at the time of an incident and have the responsibility of ensuring that the plans are followed. They develop regional contingency plans and are members of provincial and municipal committees dealing with oil pollution matters.

In addition, the Laurentian Coast Guard Region has certain specific responsibilities for channel maintenance in the St. Lawrence River downstream from Montreal and in the Saguenay River. It includes sweeping and the administration of dredging contracts as required.

Civil aviation

15.5

Administration and policy

15.5.1

Administration. Civil aviation in Canada is under the jurisdiction of the federal government and is administered under the authority of the Aeronautics Act and the National Transportation Act as amended. The Aeronautics Act is in three parts. Part I deals with the technical side of civil aviation including matters of aircraft registration, licensing of personnel, establishing and maintaining airports and facilities for air navigation, air traffic control, accident investigation and the safe operation of aircraft. It is administered by the Canadian Air Transportation Administration (CATA) through the administrator and six regional administrators