

wrecked ships and their cargo and the interest of the Crown in unclaimed wrecks. Air cushion vehicles division prepares domestic regulations for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of air cushion vehicles and ensures that domestic regulations concerning air cushion vehicle crews and maintenance engineers are implemented.

Fleet systems branch is responsible for approximately 160 vessels of different sizes performing various functions. These vessels are all attached to coast guard regions according to the type of work and workload in each region. Headquarters provides policies, standards and guidelines, and is operationally responsible for the ships in the Arctic in the summer months. The Canadian Coast Guard College at Point Edward, NS trains navigation and marine engineering officers for the Canadian Coast Guard fleet.

Telecommunications and electronics branch provides expert knowledge in communications and computers, quality assurance, guidance systems and ship electronics and avionics to Canadian Coast Guard line operations. It also provides ship-to-shore radio communications for ships using Canadian waters from 45 radio stations which also broadcast weather reports and notices of danger to navigation.

Pilotage branch establishes national technical standards and conducts research to ensure that standards are maintained. It prescribes standards for health, uniform financial reporting procedures and procedures for hearings held by the four regional pilotage authorities, and recommends the establishment of compulsory pilotage areas.

The Pilotage Act, in effect since 1971, established four regional pilotage authorities as Crown corporations with wide powers to set up, operate and maintain, in the interest of safety, an efficient pilotage service within their region. They are the Atlantic pilotage authority, the Laurentian pilotage authority, the Great Lakes pilotage authority and the Pacific pilotage authority.

Legislation branch is responsible for certain legislative activities and for participation in Law of the Sea matters. It is also involved in amendments to the maritime pollution claims fund and in the development of a maritime code which is expected to replace the existing Canada Shipping Act.

The senior marine officer, emergencies, is responsible for developing contingency plans; developing, testing, acquiring and allocating certain pollution clean-up equipment; advice and assistance at the time of a pollution incident; and certain wartime activities.

Regional marine emergency officers take over at the time of an incident and ensure that appropriate contingency plans are followed. They develop regional contingency plans and are members of provincial and municipal committees dealing with oil pollution matters.

The senior marine officer, casualty investigations, is responsible for developing accident investigation procedures and carrying out fact-finding and preliminary inquiries according to the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act.

The coast guard fleet performs many duties. During winter, East Coast icebreaking operations are co-ordinated by an ice operations office in Sydney, NS. During summer, the Arctic operations of the fleet are co-ordinated jointly by Ottawa headquarters and an ice operations office at Frobisher Bay. The coast guard fleet has one cable-laying vessel stationed at St. John's, Nfld. under year-round contract. Two rotational weather-ships off the BC coast provide meteorological data. Buoy vessels and helicopters carry out aids to navigation work; smaller craft are also used for this purpose where possible. The coast guard operates a number of specialized vessels for search and rescue work which, during distress situations, are controlled by a national defence department co-ordinator. These vessels include cutters, lifeboats and hovercraft. The cutters are normally deployed on patrol when not involved in search and rescue work.

The Laurentian coast guard region is responsible for channel maintenance in the St. Lawrence River downstream from Montreal and in the Saguenay River, including sweeping and administration of dredging contracts.