



VOLUNTARY PROTECTION ZONE FOR SHIPPING

West Coast of Haida Gwaii

Haida Gwaii is a remote archipelago located on Canada's north Pacific Coast that is home to a rich abundance and diversity of marine life, lush rainforests, and the Haida people who have lived there since time immemorial. The lands and waters of the southern portion of the archipelago are protected as the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site, which includes the ancient Haida village site of S^gang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Its remote location, rugged coastline, variable sea and weather conditions, and rich ecological and cultural heritage make Haida Gwaii vulnerable to the potential for pollution from shipping breakdowns and accidents. Increasing the distance vessels travel offshore can increase the amount of time available to address propulsion, steering or other issues, and the likelihood of a towing vessel being able to respond to a vessel that is disabled or drifting. This in turn reduces the risk of grounding and oil spills. To assess the effectiveness of such a measure, a Voluntary Protection Zone (VPZ) for Shipping has been implemented that asks vessels to observe greater distances when transiting on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.

The VPZ is based on the analysis of multi-year, large vessel traffic patterns and potential impacts to industry operations. The

project represents significant and unprecedented collaboration between the Council of the Haida Nation, the Government of Canada, and the maritime shipping industry, along with many other advisors and partners, and supports commitments made by the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation to advance collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

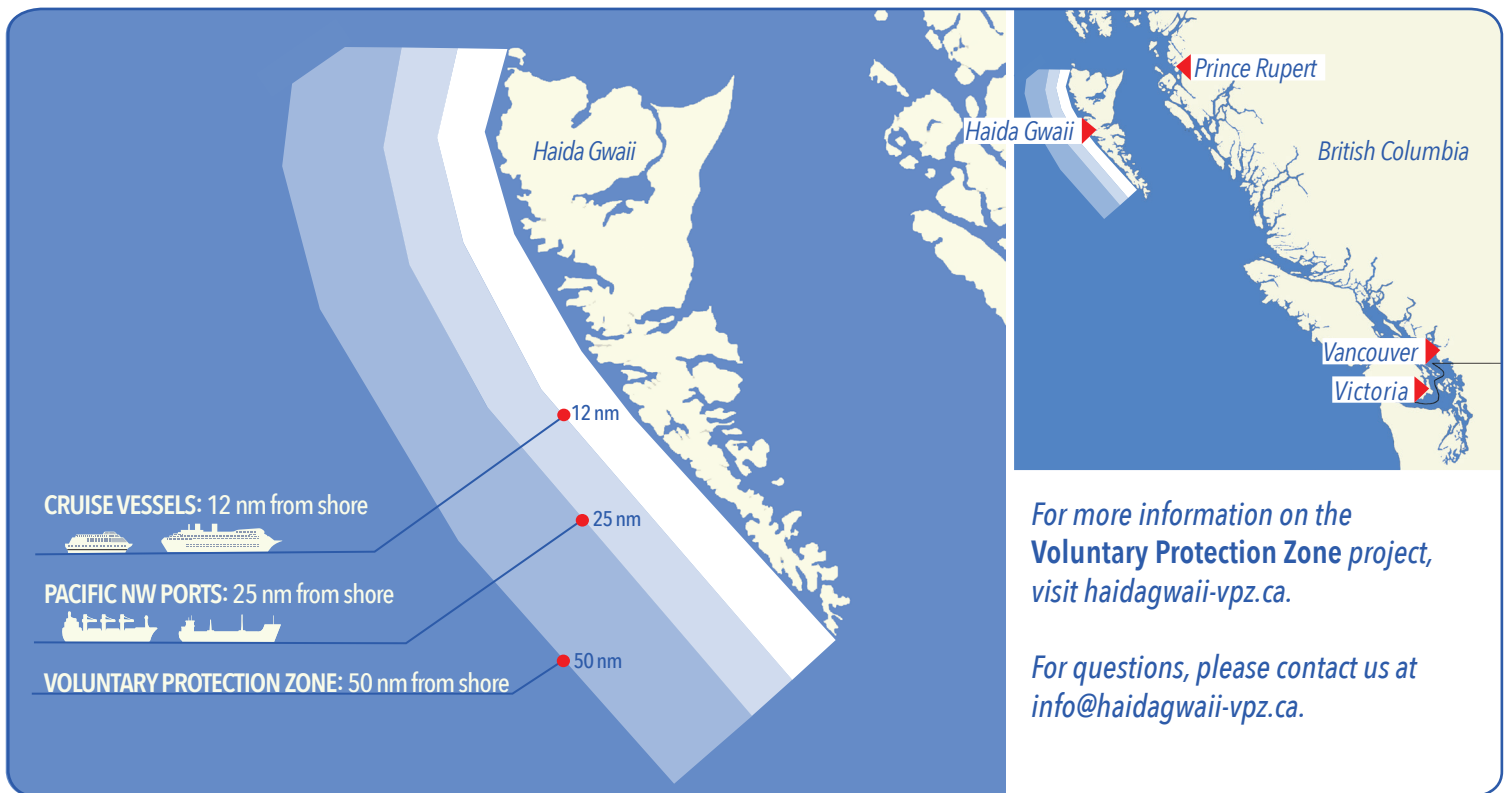
WHERE: West Coast of Haida Gwaii

A minimum 50 nautical mile (nm) VPZ applies to commercial vessels 500 tons gross tonnage or more transiting along the west coast of Haida Gwaii, with the following exceptions:

- Cruise vessels, who are asked to observe a minimum 12 nm distance from shore;
- Vessels transiting between Pacific Northwest ports (Washington, BC and Alaska), who are asked to observe a minimum 25 nm distance from shore;
- Tugs and barges (including pushing and towing alongside); and
- Fishing vessels.

Adherence to the VPZ will be undertaken on voluntary basis and only when it does not jeopardize the safety of navigation, the vessel, the persons aboard, and the cargo.

(Continued over)



For more information on the Voluntary Protection Zone project, visit haidagwaii-vpz.ca.

For questions, please contact us at info@haidagwaii-vpz.ca.

WHEN: Beginning September 1, 2020

The VPZ began on September 1, 2020 and remains in effect until further notice. Updated information will be communicated to vessel operators and mariners through channels including Government of Canada nautical charts and publications, industry associations, ships' agents, Canadian Coast Guard's Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS).

MONITORING and EVALUATION

Traffic patterns are being monitored using Automatic Identification System (AIS) data obtained from Transport Canada's Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) system¹ and the Pacific Safety Initiative. Participation rates will be reviewed on a monthly basis to monitor the effectiveness of the measures and communications, and reasons for voluntary participation (or lack of participation) in the VPZ will be identified through a short questionnaire. We recognize that the pressures being faced by the marine industry due to COVID-19 and other disruptions to global supply chains may make it challenging to maintain high participation at all times and that the data collected may reflect impacts to shipping and traffic patterns.

¹ <https://rb.gy/qznkb7>

**INFORMATION
and QUESTIONS**

For more information on the
VOLUNTARY PROTECTION ZONE,
visit haidagwaii-vpz.ca
and download the booklet.

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QUESTIONS?
Please contact us at
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WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON THE WEST COAST.



HAIDA NATION

Canada