

The coordination of federal disaster planning is within the realm of Public Safety Canada. Planning for ship source spills in the Great Lakes is part of overall federal disaster planning. The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead agency for ship source spills in waters of Canadian interest, including the Great Lakes.

The primary response to marine source oil spill incidents is the responsibility of the polluter, with government monitoring to ensure an immediate and effective response. In the Great Lakes, there is one Transport Canada certified Response Organization, being Eastern Canada Response Corporation [www.ecrc.ca](http://www.ecrc.ca) with a cascading 10,000 tonne (the accumulation of pollution equipment available) response capacity. When the polluter is unknown, unwilling or unable to respond appropriately, CCG can step in and take over the operational response.

The Canadian Coast Guard has response equipment, vessels and personnel strategically located at sites around the Great Lakes to support the overall marine response regime

The Canadian Coast Guard's preparedness is documented in the Regional Chapter of the National Marine Spills Contingency Plan. The Regional Chapter also contains nine (9) area annexes, divided by waterway (Lake Huron, Lake Erie etc.) which detail the specific priorities and tactics for response to spills in local areas based upon prevalent conditions. These plans are shared with the Response Organisation (ECRC) and United States Coast Guard to facilitate a coordinated effort.

Transport Canada does not participate in operational response deployments, but it does have a role in regards to investigation and monitoring of vessel operations and vessel condition.

Additionally, there exists an overarching Canada - US Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan which outlines the cooperative commitment to preparedness and response to spills in the Great Lakes, and other shared waterways. This joint plan has been in existence since the creation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in the 1970s and continues a longstanding tradition of cooperation in the Lakes boundary waters since 1906.

When overlapping efforts do come into play, the CCG is responsible for "international" trans-boundary incidents irrespective of the source. For more information on the Canadian Coast Guard, please visit [www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca)