

## **A tour to the Victoria Marine Communication Traffic Service (MCTS)**

**was held on Saturday, 20 March 2010.**

**Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centres** provide communications and traffic services for the marine community and for the benefit of the public at large. These Centres are responsible for:

- detecting distress situations
- ensuring timely assistance
- broadcasting safety information
- identifying defects and deficiencies in vessels entering Canadian waters
- providing advice, recommendations and direction to vessel traffic
- providing, on a cost-recovery basis, the exchange of communications between ships and land-based customers
- optimizing traffic movements and port efficiency
- facilitating the operations of pilots and the sharing of marine traffic information

### **Internet links for more information related to this subject:**

Transport Canada (TC) Transport Canada is responsible for the waterways inside and surrounding Canada. These responsibilities include: Responding and investigating marine accidents within Canadian waters, enforcing marine acts and regulations, establishing and enforcing marine personnel standards and pilotage, marine safety, marine security, regulating the operation of marine vessels in Canadian waters. As of 2003 the Office of Boating Safety and the Navigable Waters Protection Act were transferred back to Transport Canada. As was certain regulatory aspects of Emergency Response (Oil pollution).

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/>

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marine-menu.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport\\_Canada#Marine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_Canada#Marine)

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's scientific, ecological, social and economic interests in oceans and fresh waters.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department\\_of\\_Fisheries\\_and\\_Oceans\\_\(Canada\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Fisheries_and_Oceans_(Canada))

Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) The Canadian Coast Guard owns and operates the federal government's civilian fleet, and provides key maritime services to Canadians. As a Special Operating Agency of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the CCG helps DFO meet its responsibility to ensure safe and accessible

waterways for Canadians. The CCG also plays a key role in ensuring the sustainable use and development of Canada's oceans and waterways.

<http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Coast\\_Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Coast_Guard)

Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) Nautical Charts and Services. CHS's exceptional nautical charts and navigational products help ensure the safe navigation of Canada's waterways. Charts are the 'road maps' that guide mariners safely from port to port. With increasing commercial shipping, fishing activity, recreational boating, and the development of ocean resources, the role of CHS is more vital than ever.

<http://www.charts.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Hydrographic\\_Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Hydrographic_Service)

Marine Communications Traffic Service (MCTS) Formerly known as Vessel Traffic Management (VTM).

Within the Coast Guard, MCTS provides the initial response to ships in a distress situation, reduces the probability of ships being involved in collisions, groundings, and strikings, and is a cornerstone in the marine information collection and dissemination infrastructure. The safety of ships at sea and on inland waters is highly dependent on efficient distress response, traffic regulating, safety communications, the broadcasts of weather and navigation warnings and the alerting network. The public at large benefits through the protection of water supplies, the marine ecosystem, and the littoral environment. The broad national interest is served through data provided to other government departments for better management of national programs.

[http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/ccg/mcts\\_home](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/ccg/mcts_home)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Canadian\\_Coast\\_Guard\\_MCTS\\_Centres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Canadian_Coast_Guard_MCTS_Centres)

Vessel traffic Service (VTS) One of the most important functions of Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) is to provide Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) to vessels operating in Canadian waters. In order to make voyages safer and to protect the environment, VTS provides a means of exchanging information between ships and a shore-based Centre. This information is communicated to all vessels greater than twenty metres and others that comply with the VTS regulations. Canada's VTS system are operated by highly trained, certified Marine Communication and Traffic Officers (MCTSOs), who monitor the movement of vessels using VHF radio and direction finding equipment, tracking computers, and, in areas of high traffic density, surveillance radar.

<http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/e0003910>

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/vts/locations.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vessel\\_traffic\\_service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vessel_traffic_service)

**Canada / U.S. Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service (CVTS)** In 1979, by formal agreement, the Canadian and the United States Coast Guards established the Co-operative Vessel Traffic System (CVTS) for the Strait of Juan de Fuca region. The purpose of the CVTS is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vessel traffic while minimizing the risk of pollution by preventing collisions and groundings and the environmental damage that would follow. As part of the Agreement, Tofino Traffic provides VTS for the offshore approaches to the Juan de Fuca Strait and along the Washington State coastline from 48 degrees north. Seattle Traffic provides VTS for both the Canadian and US waters of Juan de Fuca Strait and Victoria Traffic provides VTS for both Canadian and US waters of Haro Strait, Boundary Passage, and the lower Georgia straits.

<http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cvts/>

**Vessel Traffic Operations and Support Systems (VTOSS)** Responsible for - Notices to Shipping (NOTSHIPS), Broadcast NOTSHIPS, Written NOTSHIPS, NAVAIDS:

<http://www.vtos.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

**Automatic Identification System (AIS)** Shows real-time ship locations, port arrivals departures. Not a part of, but monitored by MCTS

[www.marinetraffic.com/](http://www.marinetraffic.com/)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic\\_Identification\\_System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Identification_System)