

**POTENTIAL REGIONAL ASSESSMENT – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AREA, QUEBEC**  
**Session 2 : Existing Initiatives – Strengths and Opportunities**  
**February 2021**

**Objective of the Session**

To identify existing programs and initiatives in the region, and to evaluate their relevance to the key issues that a potential regional assessment would address.

**Background Information**

As outlined in the Overview Document, a number of factors are considered when determining if a regional assessment should proceed. One of those considerations is if an existing or planned initiative would adequately address the issues / concerns in the region (as discussed in Session 1).

The table on page 2 contains a list of some of the existing federal initiatives in the area. Please note this list is not exhaustive and we welcome your comments on any initiatives not listed here.

Guiding Questions

Based on your understanding of and/or participation in an existing initiative(s) in this area:

- Does the initiative focus on similar issues as the potential regional assessment?
- Are there gaps in the initiative? What could a regional assessment accomplish to help address key issues in the region?
- How could a regional assessment build on and complement these existing programs?

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**Existing federal initiatives in the St. Lawrence River Area**

*Note: this list is not exhaustive and we welcome your comments on any initiatives not listed here*

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Link</b>
Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (Oceans Protection Plan [OPP]), Transport Canada	Results of this initiative will include data collection, the development of a national cumulative effects assessment framework, and specific tools that can be applied to existing vessel movements as well as future project developments.	<a href="https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-pollution-environmental-response/cumulative-effects-marine-shipping">https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-pollution-environmental-response/cumulative-effects-marine-shipping</a>
Coastal Environmental Baseline Program (OPP), Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)	Six projects announced to characterize the conditions in the St. Lawrence based on a variety research initiatives including: physical and biological components of coastal wetlands; seabed analysis; molluscs and other benthic macrofauna; coastal fish species; intertidal macroalgae (seaweed).	<a href="https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/environmental-environnement/cebp-pdecr/projects/estuary-estuaire-eng.html">https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/environmental-environnement/cebp-pdecr/projects/estuary-estuaire-eng.html</a>
Coastal Habitat Restoration Fund (OPP), DFO	To mitigate threats to species at risk and coastal habitats, and to increase capacity of different groups (including Indigenous peoples), to undertake restoration activities.	<a href="https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/crf-frc/description-eng.html">https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/crf-frc/description-eng.html</a>
Multi-Partner Research Initiative – Concordia University (OPP), DFO	The research projects led by Concordia University will study the effectiveness of washing agents in shoreline oil spill cleanups and investigate the pathways and processes that move oil spilled at sea from one place to another.	<a href="https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/rp-pr/mpri-irmp/index-eng.html">https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/rp-pr/mpri-irmp/index-eng.html</a>  Filter items: “Concordia”
Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk – Aquatic Projects, DFO	Facilitates active participation of Indigenous communities in the implementation of Species at Risk Act through capacity-building, and supporting activities that contribute to species conservation/recovery.	<a href="https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/afsar-faep/index-eng.html">https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/afsar-faep/index-eng.html</a>
Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program, DFO	Early detection and monitoring activities focus on areas of active commercial shipping and boating, including ports and marinas.	<a href="https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/ais-eae/early-detection-precoce/index-eng.html">https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/ais-eae/early-detection-precoce/index-eng.html</a>

<p>Whale Science for Tomorrow, DFO with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)</p>	<p>Researchers from the Université du Québec à Montréal will use innovative techniques to advance their knowledge of the exposure of St. Lawrence Estuary belugas to marine contaminants and assess the impacts on this population.</p>	<p><a href="https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/collaboration/whalescience-sciencebaleines/index-eng.html">https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/collaboration/whalescience-sciencebaleines/index-eng.html</a></p>
<p>Discussion tables on the recognition of Indigenous rights and self-determination, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada</p>	<p>Discussions are community-driven and respond to the unique rights, needs and interests of First Nations, Inuit and Métis groups where existing federal policies have not been able to do so. Open to all Indigenous peoples with Section 35 rights to address longstanding issues that may fall outside the scope of other federal policies.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1511969222951/1529103469169#chp8">https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1511969222951/1529103469169#chp8</a></p>
<p>St. Lawrence Action Plan, Province of Quebec and Government of Canada</p>	<p>A federal-provincial initiative focused on biodiversity conservation, improved water quality, and sustainable use. Includes implementation of an integrated-management approach for the St. Lawrence by coordinating the efforts of decision-makers, users and civil society.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.planstlaurent.qc.ca/en/">https://www.planstlaurent.qc.ca/en/</a></p>