

# Transport Canada's Small Vessel Compliance Program (SVCP)

Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters  
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# Small Vessel Compliance Program (SVCP)

**Goal is to improve safety practices in the small non-pleasure vessel community (workboats, passenger, fishing and tugs) through:**

- Educating vessel owners and operators about their regulatory obligations under the *Canada Shipping Act 2001*, according to their type of vessel
- Making available accessible and user-friendly checklist style tools to help vessel owners and operators verify their vessels are in compliance
- Establishing a framework to help strengthen Marine Safety and Security's oversight regime

# SVCP Targets Small Vessels

- Vessels of not more than 15 gross tonnage (GT), with 12 or less passengers, that are **not** subject to mandatory inspection under the *Vessel Safety Certificate Regulations*
- **28,000** small commercial vessels in Vessel Registry
- Three distinct components
  - SVCP: small passenger vessels and workboats
  - SCCP – F: small fishing vessels
  - SVCP – T: small tugs

# What is included in SVCP?

SVCP consist of all inclusive package tailored to the vessel type to assist small vessel operators with compliance with regulations.

- **Detailed Compliance Report** - itemized checklist
- **Compliance Report Guidelines** provides detailed guidance (and best practices) to address vessel owners and operators' legal obligations regarding vessel and crew safety and addresses key safety issues.
- **Annual Compliance Report** – simplified checklist
- Letter of Participation, and Decal

# SVCP (blue), SVCP-F (orange) & SVCP-T decals (green)



Valid only if accompanied by a letter of Confirmation of Participation in the Program.  
Valide seulement si accompagné par une lettre de confirmation de participation au programme.  
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# SVCP Milestones

- 2011 SVCP created for small passenger vessels and workboats (paper-based)
- 2014 SVCP web application for online enrollments launched
- 2018 SVCP-F for fishing vessels added to the program
- 2021 SVCP-F added to the online web application program and
- 2022 SVCP-T for tugs added with both paper and online enrollment

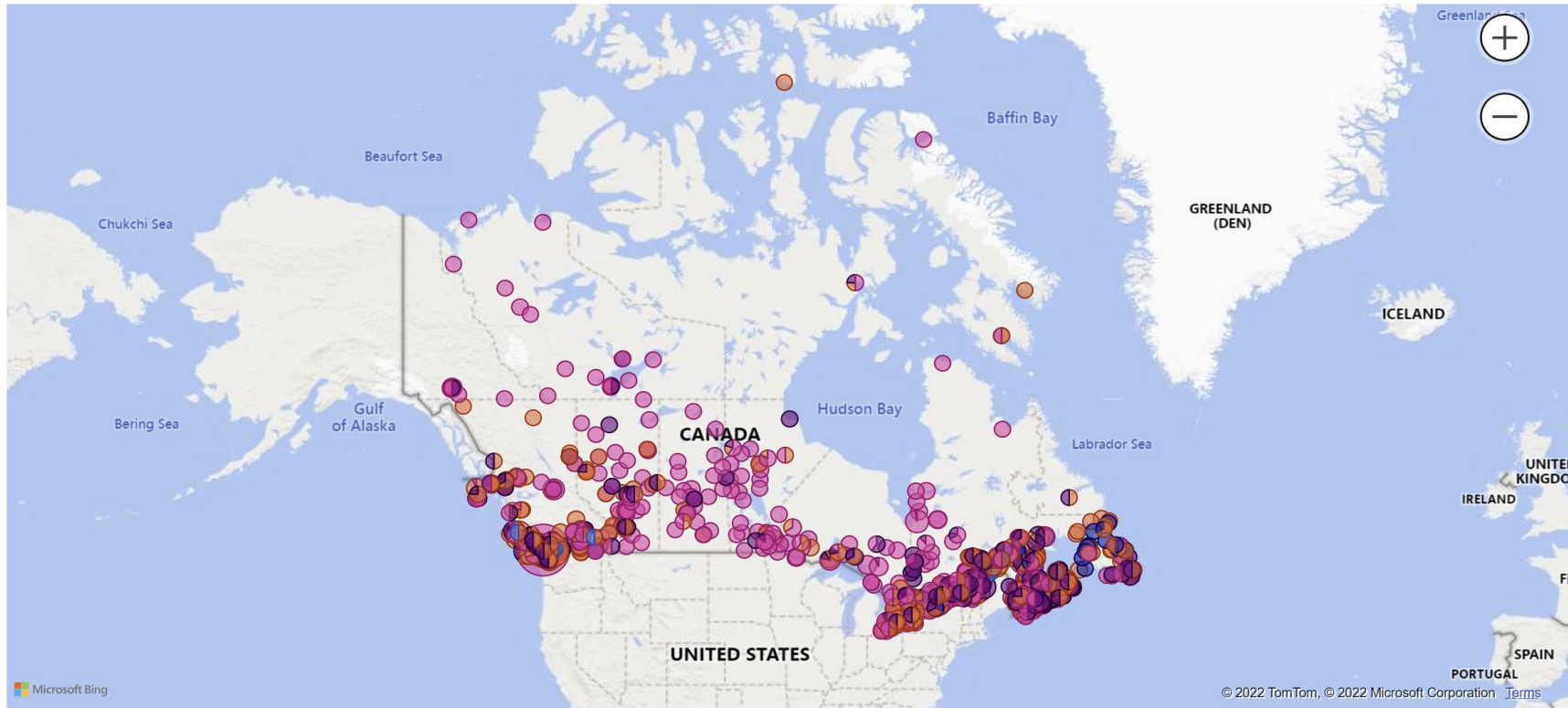


# SVCP - Current online enrollments

## SVCP ENROLLMENT



VESSEL\_TYPE ● Fishing ● Passenger ● Passenger + Workboat ● Tug ● Workboat



### Note

- The number of enrollment does not include the fishing vessels that enrolled using the paper process and have not been captured in the SVCP database before August 2021.
- The location shown is the applicant postal code location, and does not necessarily represent the vessel operation location.

4945

Count of OFFICIAL\_NUMBER

### Year of Application

2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022

2022-05-15

# SVCP Benefits

- No cost to owner/operator
- Owners and operators better understand their obligations and know what requirements they must meet to be in compliance with regulations
- Demonstrated commitment to safety good for business
  - Help meet the conditions in some provinces or municipalities to obtain a commercial business permit
  - Some organisations are requiring the decal prior to accepting contracts from vessel owners
- Vessel owners and operators are well prepared to meet future Safety Management System requirements
- As program enrollments grow:
  - SVCP is “Gold standard” in safety practices and related compliance becomes normative
  - Safety culture moves from individual vessel owners and extends to industry-wide adoption of strengthened safety culture
  - TC inspector resources can focus on those higher-risk (not enrolled) vessels.
- Enhanced safety for crew and vessel = reduction in risk for accidents and related costs



# SVCP Challenges

- Not all registered vessel owners are aware of SVCP; some targeted vessels are not registered
- No legal obligation to enroll in the SVCP
- Vessel owners/operators may not understand how the program can help enhance their safety practices
- Some vessel owners may view safety as an extra cost burden
- Original paper-based enrollment process very cumbersome
- Original Web application was not very user friendly
- Uptake – about 20% of small vessels enrolled since program launched in 2011

# SVCP Lessons learned

## Program Accessibility

- User friendly materials; plain language
- Integrate best practices from industry
- Web application upgraded to improve process for enrollment program for Fishing vessels and Tugs
- Still need to retain paper-based for some

## Program Awareness

- Clearly communicate key benefits of enrollment
- Direct outreach - i.e. Mass direct email and mail outreach promoting SVCP to applicable vessel types with regional contact for follow-up
- integrate Social Media platforms teams to promote program

## Leveraging existing Programs and Partnerships

- “Post Cards” promoting SVCP sent with Vessel Registrations
- Opportunity for CBMU

# Opportunities for CBMU Members

- Transport Canada believes the SVCP program help reduce marine accidents and associated costs by elevating the safety culture in these small vessel operations.
- The objective is to increase enrollments to a greater proportion of the small vessel fleet.
- We invite CBMU members to join us in addressing this objective.
  - CBMU could confirm vessel registration with Transport Canada
  - CBMU could encourage its members to promote benefits of SVCP enrollment to vessel owners seeking insurance coverage or renewing their insurance policies.
  - CBMU could help to incentivize SVCP participation by promoting a policy of considering SVCP participation in their risk evaluation and potential reduced insurance premiums for enrolled vessels.
- Greater participation in SVCP translate into a reduced safety risk

# Questions/Comments?

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# Appendix - Program Web Links

- **Small Vessel Compliance Program Service Page**
  - <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/small-vessel-compliance-program>
- **Enroll in the Small Vessel Compliance Program**
  - <https://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/Saf-Sec-Sur/4/SVCP-PCPB/eng/Home>
- Contact or visit your nearest [Transport Canada Marine Safety office](#) for help or more information.
- **Email:** [svcp-pcpb@tc.gc.ca](mailto:svcp-pcpb@tc.gc.ca)

# Program Web Links – Cont.

- Small Vessel Compliance Program Passenger Vessel/Workboat (SVCP-PW)
  - [Form 85-0475E](#) (PDF, 1.24 MB) for a workboat or small passenger vessel
  - [Small Vessel Compliance Program \(SVCP\) Detailed Compliance Report and Guidance Notes \(2012\) - TP 15111 E](#)
- Small Vessel Compliance Program Fishing (SVCP-F)
  - [Form 85-0509E](#) (PDF, 1.37 MB) for a fishing vessel
  - [TP-15356E - Guidance Notes for Detailed Compliance Note for Small Fishing Vessel Not More Than 15 gross Tonnage](#)
- Small Vessel Compliance Program Tugs (SVCP-T)
  - [Form 85-0525E](#) (PDF, 1.7 MB) for tugs
  - [TP-15491E - Small Vessel Compliance Program - Tug Guidance Notes](#)