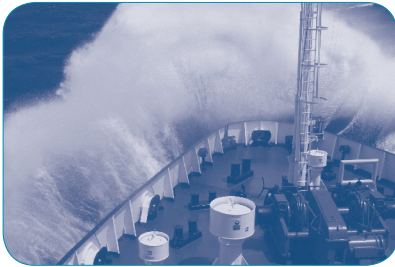






A COLLABORATIVE NATIONAL NETWORK



The world's oceans cover more than 70 per cent of our planet's surface, yet for humans, in many ways, they remain inhospitable and dangerous. It's only when a disaster impacts the ocean environment that we realize just how ill equipped we are to anticipate dangers and respond effectively. This has been demonstrated throughout history and recently by hurricanes, oil spills, and tsunamis with their vast economic, environmental and human impacts. Canada is particularly vulnerable to extremes and emergencies because of our long coastline, our rapidly changing environment and our growing economic dependence on the oceans.

MEOPAR brings together a team of outstanding Canadian researchers dedicated to addressing critical issues related to human impacts on the marine and coastal environment, and the impact of marine hazards on human activities. These research partnerships will lead to innovative risk assessment and response mechanisms and new technologies that will be of direct value for industries, government and communities concerned with marine safety and responsibility.

CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Through strong multi-disciplinary training, MEOPAR will foster highly qualified personnel capable of placing Canada at the forefront of marine research and hazard management. MEOPAR is establishing coordinated and diverse training programs so young researchers can be engaged at an early stage. They will become the champions of ocean responsibility and the experts sought out to address complex oceans issues in the years to come.

REDUCING CANADA'S VULNERABILITY

MEOPAR will help Canada reduce its vulnerability and exposure to hazards while enabling us to more rapidly respond to marine emergencies. It will respond to this challenge with the assistance of existing and new partnerships with a variety of national and international organizations including:



- Academia
- All levels of government
- The insurance industry
- The oil and gas industry
- Marine technology firms
- Communities
- Non-governmental organizations

MEOPAR will offer disaster risk reduction tools and propose positive adaptation measures over the coming decades. This will allow Canada to be better positioned to manage ocean impact, and ultimately better understand our greatest natural resource. MEOPAR has the potential to transform the way we deal with, operate in, and enjoy the ocean.