

Mayor's Report

WCMRC Marine Spill Response Base To Start Construction

In September 2016, [Western Canada Marine Response Corporation](#) (WCMRC) announced that it was moving forward with plans to build a new on-water marine spill response base in Burrard Inlet as part of a larger expansion plan that commits approximately \$150 million in spill response enhancements for British Columbia.

The marine spill response base required approval from [Vancouver Fraser Port Authority](#) (VFPA), and was subject to the VFPA's [Project and Environmental Review Process](#). WCMRC submitted their [application](#) to VFPA in October 2016, and on May 15th, 2017, the VFPA issued their [Project and Environmental Review Report](#) and approval of the project subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

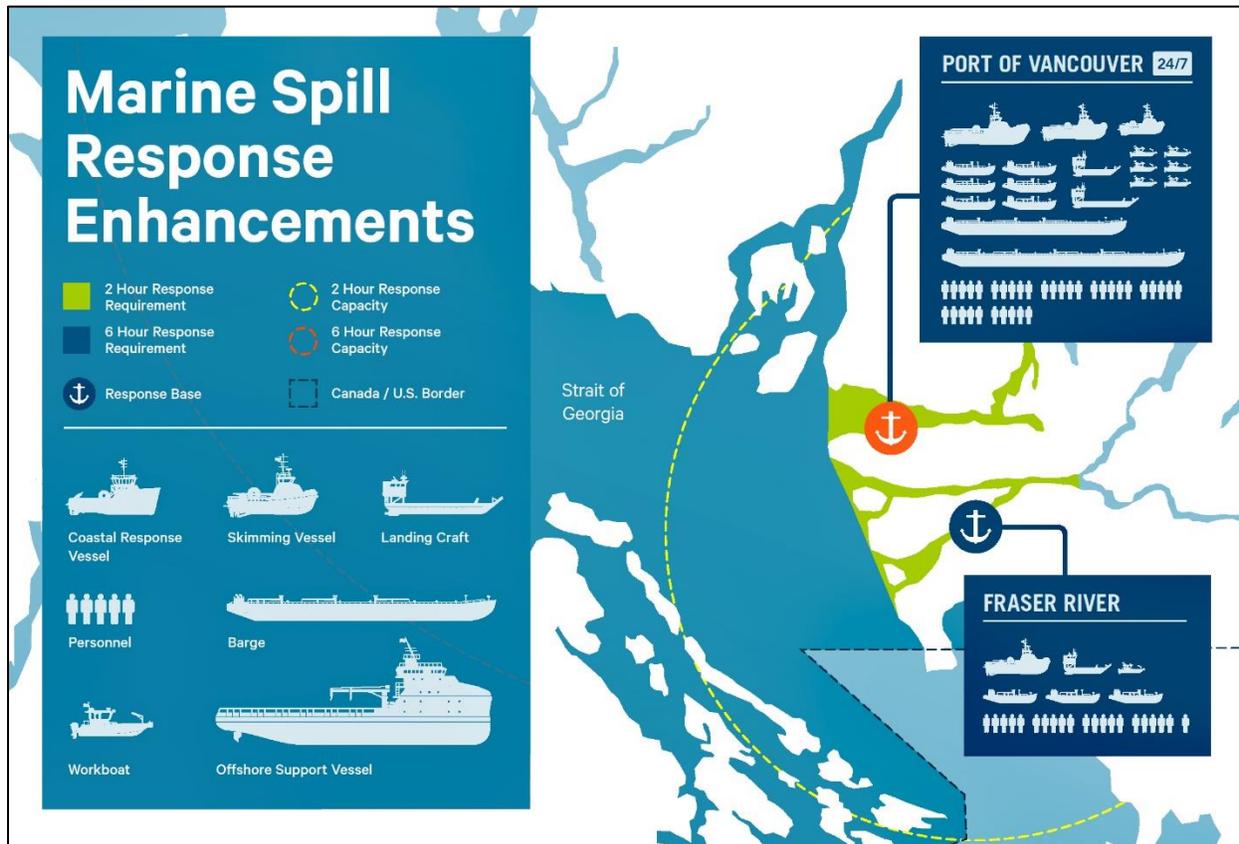
WCMRC plans to issue a "Request For Proposals" for construction of the base in September with the intention of beginning construction this Fall, and the objective of the spill response base being operational by the end of 2018.



WCMRC marine spill response base to be located next to 'New Brighton Park'.

The WCMRC marine spill response base will create new mooring docks on Commissioner Street in Vancouver next to [New Brighton Park](#). The new base will establish 24/7 operations within Burrard Inlet, and the docks will host an office, rapid response vessels, mobile skimmers, and barges. WCMRC's two large barges will act as a breakwater for the response vessels, skimmers, and workboats. The new base will also accommodate one of [Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services'](#) new fireboats.

WCMRC has a fleet of 17 vessels stationed in Burrard Inlet, which are currently moored at different docks throughout the harbour. The new base will bring the vessels and crews together in one central harbour location, streamlining operations and significantly reducing spill response times. This is an important consideration for the protection of the environmentally sensitive central harbour area adjacent to Belcarra.



Port of Vancouver 24/7 Marine Spill Response Enhancements — the 2-hour response requirement is shown as solid green.

WCMRC also has been developing a [digital mapping application](#) to coordinate their 'Geographic Response Strategies' (GRS) utilizing risk-based area planning standards. The project involves identifying coastal resources that could be at risk if a spill occurs nearby. Examples of at-risk resources include biological, environmental, cultural and human-use resources. Once sensitive resources have been identified, WCMRC is able to develop booming strategies to protect them. The objective of a GRS is to reduce decision making time during the initial response to a spill and help identify potential equipment needs.

WCMRC has developed a number of GRS mapping strategies surrounding Belcarra, including plans to protect the Hamber Island isthmus, the shoreline fronting the Belcarra picnic grounds, the north and south ends of Boulder Island, Cates Park and Maplewood Flats located west of Cates Park. To illustrate, I have included a screen-shot (see below) of the GRS plan for the shoreline fronting the Belcarra picnic grounds.

**Ralph Drew
Mayor**

