



IALA Council – 73rd session

NATIONAL MATTERS

Canada

CESSATION OF THE CANADIAN DIFFERENTIAL GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (DGPS) SERVICE

Canada, like many maritime nations, is looking to modernize its marine navigation services. As part of this ongoing process, the Canadian Coast Guard wishes to inform its IALA partners that it will shut down its Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) service by the end of 2022.

Stakeholders have been expecting this decision, given the trend to find alternatives to aging DGPS infrastructure and the cessation of the United States Coast Guard's NDGPS in September 2020.

The absence of DGPS will not impact the safety of navigation in Canadian waters or Coast Guard services. Modern GPS has improved to meet marine navigation requirements and exceeds the performance of DGPS.

In North America, the satellite-based Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) is an alternative to DGPS for vessel operators seeking greater confidence in safely navigating confined waterways or during low visibility conditions. Based on performance evaluations performed at different locations thorough Canada, WAAS provides excellent coverage in Canadian waters, including in the Arctic up to 72° north. Its accuracy is better than 1.5 metres.