



# Operations Order

## 103 – Vessel Naming Policy

### Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1.1	Purpose .....	2
1.2	Policy .....	2
1.3	Application .....	2
1.4	Definition.....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Roles and responsibilities</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1	Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard .....	2
2.2	Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard .....	3
2.3	Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard .....	3
2.4	Deputy Commissioner, Operations.....	3
2.5	Director General, Operations .....	3
2.6	Senior Director, Operational Support.....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> .....	<b>3</b>
3.1	Suitability .....	3
3.2	Brevity and clarity .....	3
3.3	Commemoration .....	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Procedures</b> .....	<b>4</b>
4.1	Development of a pool of names.....	4
4.1.1	For vessels of 125 GRT or greater .....	4
4.1.2	For vessels of less than 125 GRT .....	4
4.2	Selection of names.....	4
4.2.1	For vessels of 125 GRT or greater .....	4
4.2.2	For vessels of less than 125 GRT .....	5
4.3	Approval.....	5
4.4	Certification and registration.....	5
<b>5</b>	<b>Relevant and complementary Operations orders</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Enquiries</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>Definition of vessel classes and naming criteria</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this order is to state the Canadian Coast Guard (Coast Guard) policy for the naming of Coast Guard vessels and to provide general guidelines for the selection and approval of names.

The objective is to select names that promote Canadian sovereignty, culture, geography and history. It is also intended to raise the profile of vessels and the work they do by honouring and celebrating people and places of regional and national significance.

### 1.2 Policy

It is the policy of the Coast Guard that vessels of the Coast Guard fleet must be named according to the criteria listed in this order (Annex A).

All named vessels must have the prefix of CCGS for “Canadian Coast Guard Ship” before their given names.

### 1.3 Application

This policy applies to all Coast Guard vessels and air cushioned vehicles.

Where names of existing Coast Guard vessels do not comply with this order, names will not need to be changed.

Vessels under long-term charter by the Coast Guard may be renamed in accordance with this order where deemed appropriate and practicable.

Typically small craft, which are vessels under 15 gross registered tonnage (GRT) or less than 12 metres in length, are sequentially numbered by type or class and not named. However, in cases where they are considered part of the base fleet and included in the Fleet Operations Plan for programming purposes, they may be named at the discretion of the Minister.

### 1.4 Definition

Unless specifically defined, terms in this order have the same meaning as defined in the Fleet Safety Manual, Glossary – Definitions (see Annex A of the Fleet Safety Manual<sup>\*</sup>)

## 2 Roles and responsibilities

### 2.1 Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for:

- a) approving name selections for all vessels

---

<sup>\*</sup> The [Fleet Safety Manual](#) is accessible only on the Government of Canada network.

## **2.2 Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard**

The Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for:

- a) recommending name selections to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for all vessels

## **2.3 Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard**

The Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for:

- a) recommending name selections to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

## **2.4 Deputy Commissioner, Operations**

The Deputy Commissioner, Operations is responsible for:

- a) recommending name selections to the Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard

## **2.5 Director General, Operations**

The Director General, Operations, is responsible for:

- a) developing, implementing and maintaining this order

## **2.6 Senior Director, Operational Support**

The Senior Director, Operational Support, is responsible for:

- a) managing this order and monitoring to ensure compliance

# **3 Guidelines**

## **3.1 Suitability**

The suitability of a particular choice of name has 3 dimensions, namely:

- a) promoting Canadian culture, history, geography and sovereignty by honouring people and places of importance to Canadians
- b) relevance and acceptability of the name to clients, stakeholders and the general public
- c) the extent to which the name promotes a positive image of the Department of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

## **3.2 Brevity and clarity**

Proposed vessel names should be brief and easily understood via radiotelephone and other means of communication, therefore:

- a) complicated or confusing spelling and pronunciation should be avoided
- b) names that sound like existing vessel names, places, call signs, directions or emergency signals must be avoided

- c) professional titles (such as Doctor), honorifics (such as Right Honourable), familial abbreviations (such as Jr., III), and incomplete names should generally be avoided; however, they may be used in cases where they would complement name recognition for the subject

### **3.3 Commemoration**

In keeping with commonly accepted commemorative naming guidelines, proposed names of individuals will only be used posthumously, and must only be considered for inclusion in a pool when the person has been deceased for at least 3 years.

## **4 Procedures**

### **4.1 Development of a pool of names**

The Director General, Operations will develop and maintain a pool of potential names for each class of vessel as described in Annex A.

Verification of suitability, brevity, clarity and commemoration standards will be done prior to consultation and before names are entered in the pool for each class of vessel.

In developing the pool, the Director General, Operations will use a consultative process as outlined in sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 below.

#### **4.1.1 For vessels of 125 GRT or greater**

The pool of names must be developed and maintained at headquarters (HQ).

In developing the pool, the Director General, Operations will consult with appropriate regional, industry, community, indigenous, law enforcement, and other government department/agency representatives to refine the pool of proposed names.

The Director General, Operations must forward a request to all assistant commissioners to review the pool of potential vessel names conforming to that class of vessel.

#### **4.1.2 For vessels of less than 125 GRT**

A request will be sent to the relevant senior director(s), Fleet seeking a pool of proposed names to be provided. At least 3 names for each vessel to be named are to be provided in order of preference, along with a short biography and rationale for each.

### **4.2 Selection of names**

The procedure to be followed for the selection of names for Coast Guard vessels must be as per the following sections.

#### **4.2.1 For vessels of 125 GRT or greater**

The Director General, Operations must forward a request to the assistant commissioner(s) and other relevant partners to review the pool of potential vessel names conforming to that class of vessel. If there are no suitable names in the pool, alternates will be provided as necessary, with a short biography and rationale for each.

The Director General, Operations, in consultation with the assistant commissioner(s) and other relevant partners, must select names to recommend to the Deputy Minister for approval by the Minister.

#### **4.2.2 For vessels of less than 125 GRT**

The pool of proposed names from the region(s) is reviewed and vetted by HQ to verify that they conform to the naming criteria outlined in Annex A.

#### **4.3 Approval**

The Senior Director, Operational Support, must obtain confirmation from Transport Canada's Vessel Registration Office that the proposed name(s) and alternates are available and meet the criteria listed in section 4.2 above. If not available, other names are to be chosen and verified with the Vessel Registration Office.

The Director General, Operations submits proposed names to the Commissioner, Coast Guard, via the Deputy Commissioner, Operations to recommend to the Deputy Minister for ministerial selection and approval.

#### **4.4 Certification and registration**

The Senior Director, Operational Support reserves the name(s) selected by the Minister with Transport Canada.

Depending on the responsibility for project management, either the Director General, Major Projects or the Director General, Integrated Technical Services obtains the necessary surveyor's and builder's certificates and arranges for the placement of names on the vessels.

The Senior Director, Operational Support completes the relevant registration activities, seeks consent from family members in support of proposed names of individuals, and obtains necessary documents (see CGOO [CGFO] 105.00\*).

### **5 Relevant and complementary Operations orders**

- CGOO (CGFO) 102.00 Registrations/Licensing of Small Craft - Coast Guard Fleet\*
- CGOO (CGFO) 105.00 Ship Registration and Name Changes\*
- CGOO (CGFO) 106.00 Naming and Dedication to Service Ceremony\*
- CGOO 119.00 Decommissioning of Vessels and Decommissioning and Disposal of Helicopters\*

---

\* [Coast Guard Operations Orders \(CGOO\)](#) are accessible only on the Government of Canada network.

## 6 Enquiries

Enquiries regarding this Operations Order should be directed to [InfoPol@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:InfoPol@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).



Julie Gascon  
Director General, Operations

## Annex A Definition of vessel classes and naming criteria

Class	Abbreviation (French)	Definition	Naming criteria
Polar Icebreaker	Polar ( <i>polaire</i> )	A very large multitasked icebreaker (approx. 140 metres in length), capable of sustained operations in the Arctic archipelago over 3 seasons per year.  Has the capacity to overwinter in the Arctic.  Has the capacity to deliver a large suite of Government of Canada programs.	Former Canadian prime ministers
Heavy Icebreaker	HI ( <i>BL</i> )	A very large multitasked icebreaker (approx. 130 metres in length), capable of sustained operations in the Arctic archipelago over 2 seasons per year and escort operations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and East Coast of Newfoundland.  Has capability to deliver a variety of Government of Canada programs including many Coast Guard programs and scientific missions.	Former Canadian prime ministers
Medium Icebreaker	MI ( <i>BM</i> )	A large icebreaker (approx. 80-100 metres in length) capable of sustained icebreaking and escort operations in the Arctic archipelago over 2 seasons per year, the Great Lakes, River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Atlantic coast in winter.  Has capability to deliver a variety of Government of Canada programs including many Coast Guard programs and scientific missions.	Former Canadian leaders who made significant contributions to Canada through their work in politics, the marine environment, charitable efforts, business ventures, or public service

Class	Abbreviation (French)	Definition	Naming criteria
Multipurpose Vessel	MPV ( <i>NMF</i> )	<p>A large (approx. 80 metres in length), multitasked vessel with the capacity to operate off of Canada's coasts and within major waterways.</p> <p>Multitasking, icebreaking and heavy lift capabilities, with innovative mission modular design concepts permitting them to adjust to evolving demands.</p> <p>The Multipurpose Vessel class consolidates 3 former classes of vessels: the High Endurance Multi-tasked Vessel, the Medium Endurance Multi-tasked Vessel, and the Offshore Patrol Vessel.</p>	Former Canadian leaders who made significant contributions to Canada through their work in politics, the marine environment, charitable efforts, business ventures or public service
Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel	OOSV ( <i>NHRO</i> )	<p>A large (approx. 90 metres in length), multitasked offshore vessel, capable of extended missions of 4 to 6 weeks with a 10,000 nautical mile (NM) range; can deliver programs in ice-infested waters.</p> <p>Equipped with wet labs and has bottom and water-column sampling capability.</p> <p>Primarily used for ecosystem and fishery science, oceanographic missions, geological and hydrographic surveys.</p>	Former Canadian scientists or explorers of Canada
Offshore Fisheries Science Vessel	OFSV ( <i>NHRH</i> )	<p>A large (approx. 55 to 65 metres in length), multitasked offshore vessel capable of extended missions of 4 to 6 weeks with an 8,500 NM range; can deliver programs in ice-infested waters.</p> <p>Equipped with wet labs and able to do trawl surveys and some water column sampling.</p> <p>Primarily used for ecosystem and fishery science research.</p>	Former Canadian scientists or explorers of Canada



Class	Abbreviation (French)	Definition	Naming criteria
Mid-shore Patrol Vessel	MSPV (PSH)	<p>A medium-sized vessel (approx. 40 metres in length) that can operate up to 120 NM offshore and stay at sea up to 14 days.</p> <p>Designed to support law enforcement; primarily used for maritime security and fisheries enforcement.</p>	<p>Former recipients of the Victoria Cross, Star of Military Valour, Medal of Military Valour, Meritorious Service Medal, Cross of Valour, Star of Courage, Medal of Bravery, Order of Merit of the Police Forces, RCMP Honour Roll or Fisheries and Oceans Canada or Coast Guard members who died in the line of duty</p>
Air Cushion Vehicle	ACV (VCA)	<p>A medium-sized, fast (up to 45 knots), multi-tasked vessel which rides on a cushion of air (hovercraft), capable of working in very shallow areas and littoral zones.</p> <p>Primarily used for search and rescue, aids to navigation, environmental response, and icebreaking.</p>	<p>Indigenous words relating to the marine environment</p>
Special Navais Vessel		<p>A shallow draught, flat-bottom vessel (approx. 50 metres in length); self-supporting for up to 28 days; and able to sustain repeated groundings due to shifting river channels.</p> <p>Primarily used for navigational aids on the Mackenzie River.</p>	<p>Indigenous words relating to the marine environment</p>
SAR Lifeboat	L/B (B/S)	<p>Small (approx. 13 to 17 metres in length) shore-based self-righting lifeboat; capable of search and rescue operations up to 100 NM from shore.</p>	<p>Geographical features - Uniform by class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian capes</b> for high-speed lifeboats</li> <li>• <b>Canadian bays</b> for high-endurance lifeboats</li> <li>• <b>Canadian sounds</b> for response boats - medium</li> </ul>
Mid-shore Science Vessel	MSSV (NSHR)	<p>Medium-sized vessel (approx. 40 metres in length) capable of sustained operations away from port for up to 14 days with endurance for 21 days.</p> <p>Primarily used for ecosystem fishery science, oceanographic missions, and geological and hydrographic surveys.</p>	<p>Former dominion hydrographers of Canada or former explorers of Canada</p>

<b>Class</b>	<b>Abbreviation (French)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Naming criteria</b>
Channel Survey and Sounding Vessel	CSSV (NHSC)	Small vessel (approx. 20 to 25 metres in length).  Primarily used to conduct depth survey operations.	Former dominion hydrographers of Canada or former explorers of Canada
Near-shore Fishery Research Vessel	NSFRV (NSHRH)	Small (approx. 20 metres to 25 metres in length) fishery research vessel with minimal ice capability to transit light ice-infested waters.  Has some lab capacity and is primarily used to conduct trawl surveys.	Former Canadians who made a contribution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• marine and fishery research</li> <li>• fisheries management</li> </ul>
Specialty Vessel		Small (under 150 GRT), shallow draught vessel of various designs.  Used for marine and fishery research, conservation and protection patrols, science, and aids to navigation.	Former Canadians who made a contribution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• marine and fishery research</li> <li>• fisheries management</li> <li>• maritime safety or security</li> <li>• marine transportation</li> </ul>
Small Craft	SC (PE)	Any vessel less than 15 GRT – approx. 12 metres in length or less.	Not typically named; sequentially numbered with CG or GC prefix.