

You will also have read the Department of National Defence Summary of findings of the environmental assessment of the policy concerning port visits by nuclear propelled vessels and vessels capable of carrying nuclear weapons, and the Department of External Affairs assessment of the environmental implications of the policy of permitting transits of Dixon Entrance by submerged submarines. I am here this morning to present you with a briefing which will expand on the facts surrounding visits to Canadian ports by Nuclear Powered Vessels and Vessels capable of carrying Nuclear Weapons, and the passage of submarines through the Dixon Entrance.

At present these port visits take place on a regular basis. Nuclear powered vessels visit only Halifax on the East Coast, Esquimalt, and Nanoose on the West Coast with approximately 6 to 8 visits to each port each year. Visits by vessels capable of carrying nuclear weapons are, at present much more frequent, as they include all visits by Ships of Destroyer size and up, with 37 visits to East Coast ports and 101 visits to West Coast ports so far this year. First, I would like to explain that permitting visits by these vessels is not in any way a change to existing