

ECHO Program news - Update on  
2019 underwater noise reduction  
initiatives

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## At a glance

### **2019 voluntary vessel slowdown trial in Haro Strait and Boundary Pass**

Week 3 and 4 overall pilot-reported vessel participation rate: 82%

### **2019 inshore lateral displacement trial in the Strait of Juan de Fuca**

In week 5 and 6, 77% of tug trips were able to be in the outbound shipping lane or inshore trial zone for >75% of their transit.

## Whale presence

In the past two weeks, porpoise and transient killer whales were spotted in the Boundary Pass slowdown area on five days. Recent reports indicate the southern resident killer whales have been seen at Swiftsure Bank, west of the slowdown trial area and lateral displacement trial area.

*Thank you to all participants for continuing to support and demonstrate commitment to the ECHO Program's underwater noise reduction initiatives!*

This newsletter provides regular technical updates related to the ECHO Program's underwater noise reduction initiatives and is primarily intended for participants of the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass voluntary vessel

slowdown trial and Strait of Juan de Fuca inshore lateral displacement trial. For more general ECHO Program news and updates, [sign up to our ECHO Program newsletter here.](#)

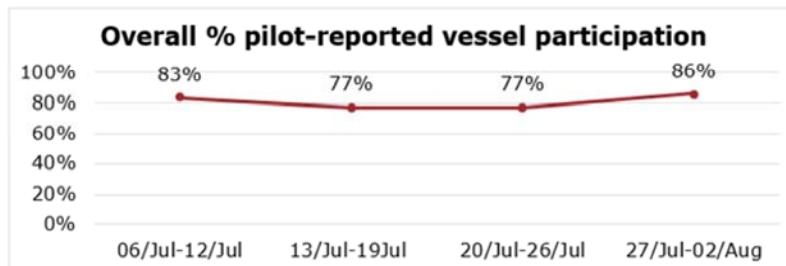


Transient killer whales in Boundary Pass. Photo credit: Nicole Le Bron

## **2019 voluntary vessel slowdown trial in Haro Strait and Boundary Pass**

### **Vessel participation update – week of July 20-26 and July 27-August 2, 2019**

In the third and fourth weeks of the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass voluntary slowdown, between July 20-26 and July 27-August 2, 2019, agents flagged 193 of 210 transits as potential candidates for participation. 172 of these flagged transits participated, representing a total pilot-reported vessel participation rate of 82%.



The table below provides further details on participation for the week of July 20-26 and July 27-August 2, 2019, as

well as the cumulative participation since the start of the slowdown.

Vessel type	Pilot-reported participation by vessel type		
	Participation by sector		
	Week 3 July 20-26, 2019	Week 4 July 27-August 2, 2019	2019 cumulative July 6 to August 2, 2019
Bulkier	32 of 44 - (73%)	48 of 60 (80%)	157 of 199 (79%)
Vehicle carrier	8 of 9 - (89%)	8 of 8 (100%)	36 of 41 (88%)
Container	18 of 23 - (78%)	30 of 31 (97%)	101 of 119 (85%)
General cargo	6 of 7 - (86%)	6 of 9 (67%)	17 of 25 (68%)
Other	-	-	-
Passenger	2 of 3 - (67%)	1 of 1 (100%)	8 of 11 (73%)
Tanker	3 of 4 - (75%)	9 of 10 (90%)	19 of 23 (83%)
Tug	-	-	-
Yacht	-	-	-
Heavy lift	1 of 1 - (100%)	-	2 of 2 (100%)

*PLEASE NOTE: Participation rates shown are based on reporting to Pacific Pilotage Authority dispatch following each transit. AIS data will be used later to confirm transit speeds.*

## 2019 voluntary inshore lateral displacement trial in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

### Trial achievement update – July 15 to July 28, 2019

In weeks five and six, 77% of tug trips were able to be south of the killer whale feeding area, in either the outbound shipping lane or inshore trial zone for >75% of their transit.

Trial achievement rate of tug trips spending a percentage of their transit in outbound shipping lane and inshore trial zone	Week 5 & 6 July 15-28, 2019		2019 cumulative June 17 to July 28, 2019	
	# Trips	%	# Trips	%
# Trips ≥ 75% of transit	10	77%	30	77%
# Trips ≥ 50%-<75% of transit	0	0%	2	5%
# Trips ≥ 25%-<50% of transit	0	0%	2	5%
# Trips > 0%-<25% of transit	0	0%	1	3%
# Trips 0% of transit	3	0%	4	10%
<b>Total # of tug trips in the Canadian Strait of Juan de Fuca</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>39</b>	

## Resources for mariners

### WhaleReport Alert System

The WhaleReport Alert System was developed by the B.C. Cetacean Network and was made possible with

funding and project support from the Prince Rupert Port Authority and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

This app is intended for regional commercial ship operators, and users are verified by an administrator before receiving access.

Download this app to receive real-time notification when whales are in range. These notifications can help mariners undertake adaptive mitigation measures, such as slowing down or altering course in the presence of whales, to reduce the risk of physical or acoustic disturbance.

Read more and download the app at  
<http://wildwhales.org/wras>.

## **Questions or feedback**

Contact the ECHO Program team at  
[echo@portvancouver.com](mailto:echo@portvancouver.com) or learn more at  
[www.portvancouver.com/echo](http://www.portvancouver.com/echo).

## **About the 2019 underwater noise reduction initiatives**

### **Haro Strait and Boundary Pass expanded voluntary vessel slowdown trial**

Underwater noise from ships can interfere with whales' ability to hunt, navigate and communicate, but slowing ships down can reduce that noise. This summer, the ECHO Program, partners and advisors are undertaking a voluntary vessel slowdown trial with a goal to maximize industry participation, underwater noise reduction levels and the benefits to the southern resident killer whales in key foraging areas. For more information on the slowdown, please visit our [2019 voluntary vessel slowdown trial](#) webpage.

### **Strait of Juan de Fuca voluntary inshore lateral displacement trial**

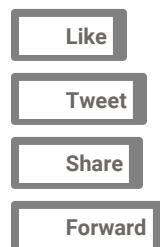
Underwater noise from ships can interfere with whales' ability to hunt, navigate and communicate, and moving ships further away from known whale feeding areas can affect the underwater noise levels in those areas. This trial supports the ECHO Program's objective to better understand and manage the cumulative effects of shipping activities on at-risk whales. For more information about the inshore lateral displacement trial, see our [2019 inshore lateral displacement trial webpage](#).

| For additional information about the ECHO Program, see [www.portvancouver.com/echo](http://www.portvancouver.com/echo).



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You are receiving this email because of your support or participation in the ECHO Program's voluntary underwater noise reduction initiatives taking place this summer. These initiatives aim to reduce underwater noise which can affect endangered killer whales.



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