

ECHO Program - Final cumulative participation for 2019 underwater noise reduction initiatives

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This newsletter provides regular technical updates for participants of the ECHO Program's 2019 Haro Strait and Boundary Pass voluntary vessel slowdown trial and Strait of Juan de Fuca inshore lateral displacement trial. This edition will be the last participation update of 2019.

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The 2019 underwater noise reduction initiatives have concluded

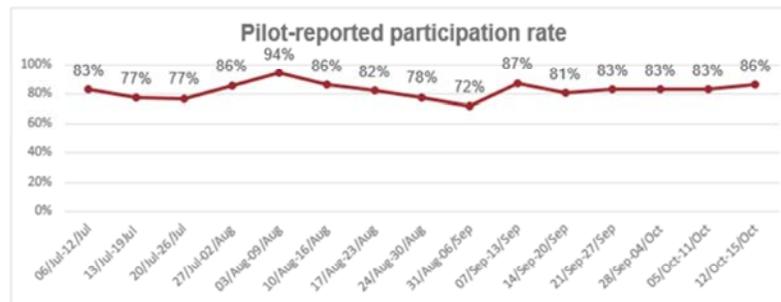
Over the last several months, the ECHO Program, along with its partners and advisors, carried out voluntary initiatives in the Salish Sea to support southern resident killer whale recovery efforts, with a goal to reduce underwater noise from ships and tugs in key southern resident killer whales foraging areas. On October 31, the last of the ECHO Program voluntary initiatives concluded and a summary of the results are available below.

Cumulative participation results

2019 voluntary vessel slowdown trial in Haro Strait and Boundary Pass

The voluntary slowdown trial ended on October 15. Although the slowdown distance almost doubled in 2019 over previous years, the final reported participation results from deep sea vessels with a B.C. Coast Pilot on board indicate that a high participation rate of 82% (1279 of

1551 ships) was averaged in the slowdown trial area over the 11 weeks of the initiative.



Others slowed down too!

Over the slowdown period, we primarily reported out on the participation rates of deep sea vessels with a B.C. Coast Pilot on board. However, other vessel types also slowed down in the trial area to help reduce underwater noise for the whales. Between June 1 and October 31, 2019, Washington State Ferries slowed just under 500 vessel transits to 11.5 knots through the Haro Strait shipping channel during their daily crossings from Anacortes to Sidney, B.C. Government and research vessels were also requested to slow to 11.5 knots through the trial area and we acknowledge their strong participation efforts while final participation data for these vessel types is being processed.

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

The voluntary inshore lateral displacement trial ended on October 31. Since the trial began on June 17, 109 tugs transited the Strait of Juan de Fuca and 77 of them (71%) were able to shift their transit south of the killer whale feeding area, in either the outbound shipping lane or inshore trial zone, for more than 75% of their transit. The table below provides further details on the cumulative trial achievement rates over the entire trial period.

Number of tug trips transiting inside and outside the inshore trial zone or outbound shipping lane	Cumulative trial achievement rate June 17 to October 31, 2019*	
Number of tug trips spending more than 75% of their transit in the trial zone or outbound shipping lane	77	71%
Number of tug trips spending 50% to 74% of their transit in the trial zone or outbound shipping lane	7	6%

Number of tug trips spending 25% to 49% of their transit in the trial zone or outbound shipping lane	3	3%
Number of tug trips spending less than 24% of their transit in the trial zone or outbound shipping lane	5	5%
Number of tug trips that did not spend any time in the trial zone or outbound shipping lane	17	16%
Total number of tug trips transiting north of the outbound shipping lane in the Strait of Juan de Fuca	109	

** Due to a technical issue, AIS data for August 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 26 and September 4 and 7 is not available at this time so has not yet been incorporated into these results.*

Next steps

The ECHO Program and its various partners have begun analyzing data to determine what levels of underwater noise reductions were achieved as a result of the 2019 initiatives. The ECHO Program will issue final technical reports with findings and conclusions for both initiatives in spring 2020.

Your efforts are making a difference

Thank you to all participants for your exemplary support and commitment to making the ECHO Program's underwater noise reduction initiatives a success again this summer. Your efforts to slow ships or move tugs away from known southern resident killer whale feeding areas helped reduce underwater noise in those areas and represent an important contribution to the combined southern resident killer whale recovery efforts that were also implemented by others in the region this summer.

Questions or feedback

Contact the ECHO Program team at echo@portvancouver.com or learn more at www.portvancouver.com/echo.

| For additional information about the ECHO Program, see 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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