

When: August 1–October 31, 2020

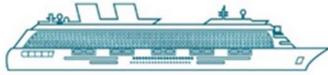
The voluntary slowdown trial will be in effect from August 1 to October 31, 2020. Southern resident killer whales have historically been observed at Swiftsure Bank year-round, and in greater numbers during the summer months.

Speed: 14.5 kn or 11.5 kn or less speed through the water

When it is safe and operationally feasible, large commercial vessels are encouraged to transit outbound through the slowdown trial area at or below the following speeds through water targets:

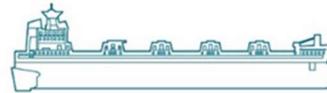
14.5 knots

speed through the water **or less**
for vehicle carriers, cruise and container vessels



11.5 knots

speed through the water **or less**
for bulkers, tankers and government vessels



Transiting the slowdown trial area at these reduced speeds could add between 7 and 30 minutes to the total transit time, depending on the vessel type. Any directions from Vessel Traffic Services supersede those of the voluntary trial.

Monitoring and reporting: Underwater noise, whale presence, participation

To support the ECHO Program's evaluation of the slowdown trial, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will monitor underwater noise levels before, during and after the slowdown period using underwater listening devices, called hydrophones, located in Swiftsure Bank.

Participation rates will be determined using Automatic Information System data, followed by a correction to calculate the speed of vessels through the water. Whale presence will be monitored and recorded through dedicated boat surveys by Pacheedaht First Nation within their territorial waters, and collated from additional data sources such as from BC Cetacean Sightings Network. At the end of the slowdown trial, the ECHO Program team will conduct an analysis to evaluate its effectiveness. Results will be published at portvancouver.com/echo.

For more information

For more information on the Swiftsure Bank voluntary slowdown trial, visit portvancouver.com/echo/swiftsure. For questions, please contact us at echo@portvancouver.com or through the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Operations Centre, which is available 24/7 at 604.665.9086. For more information on the ECHO Program, please visit www.portvancouver.com/echo.