



Final update on the ECHO Program's 2021 voluntary initiatives



Good afternoon,

The ECHO Program has officially concluded its **fifth, and longest-running, season of voluntary initiatives**. We couldn't be more grateful for the continued support of our many advisors, partners, and participants whose collective efforts are helping to quantifiably reduce underwater noise and make a difference for the whales.

We are proud to report that participation in all three of our voluntary initiatives has exceeded 80% again this year - a testament to the enduring dedication of our partners across the marine transportation industry to voluntary action in support of at-risk whales.

Below is an overview of the cumulative participation rates achieved in each of our voluntary underwater noise reduction initiatives this season.

Summary of cumulative participation rates in 2021 voluntary initiatives

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Voluntary initiative	Cumulative participation rate
Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown (July 1 – November 30)	90%
Swiftsure Bank slowdown (June 1 – October 31)	81%
Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement (June 1 – October 31)	88%

Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown final participation rates

Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown participation rates			
Ship type	Week 20 (Nov 13 – 19)	Week 21 (Nov 20 – 30)	Overall cumulative (July 1 – Nov 30)
Bulk Carrier	78%	88%	89%
Car Carrier	86%	100%	90%
Container	87%	97%	93%
Passenger	-	-	-
Tanker	90%	100%	93%
Other	50%	83%	93%
TOTAL	82%	91%	90%

The Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown concluded on November 30th with a total cumulative participation rate of **90%**. This strong participation rate is especially impressive as this year's slowdown was the longest in the Haro Strait & Boundary Pass slowdown's history, totalling 21 weeks or approximately five months.

We extend a special thank you to the BC Coast Pilots, the Pacific Pilotage Authority, the shipping associations, and the many ship agents, owners, and operators who supported implementation of the slowdown throughout this extended season, despite ongoing supply chain challenges related to COVID-19 and extreme weather events.

What's next



Over the next several months, the ECHO Program team will compile and analyze data from this year's underwater noise reduction initiatives. Reports summarizing the results and findings of this year's initiatives, including acoustic reductions achieved, will be published in spring 2022.

While the ECHO Program's voluntary initiatives have concluded for this year, we encourage mariners to continue to slow down in the presence of whales whenever safe and operationally feasible to do so.

As many whale species continue to be detected year-round in the Salish Sea, we also strongly encourage mariners to register for and use the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network's **Whale Report Alert System** (WRAS) to receive real-time notification of whale presence in the region.

Other ways you can stay up to date on whale presence in the Salish Sea include following:

- Photographer and ECHO Program trusted observer [Jeanne Hyde's blog](#)
- The Center for Whale Research's ['Whale encounters' page](#)

Questions or feedback

Thank you for your participation in this year's collaborative efforts to support the recovery of the southern resident killer whales. Your efforts are making a difference.

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