



ECHO Program update on seasonal initiatives



Good afternoon,

We are pleased to report increasingly strong participation rates in the ECHO Program's voluntary underwater noise reduction initiatives to support the recovery of southern resident killer whales. Thanks to the continued support of our many advisors, partners, and more than **80 marine transportation organizations**, participation in all three of our initiatives is at or above 80%—and as high as **94%** in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown.

Over the last two weeks, our marine mammal observers have consistently sighted southern resident killer whales throughout Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Thankfully, at this time, no southern resident killer whales have been reported near the site of the sunken fishing boat, which spilled fuel near San Juan Island on August 13, 2022.

As the whales continue to travel and feed throughout the area with calves in tow, we extend our sincere thanks to all participants for their continued efforts to create a quieter underwater environment by voluntarily slowing down or staying distanced.

Participation rates in our voluntary initiatives are outlined below. Each table lists the percentage of participating ship transits, as well as the number of participating ship transits out of all ship transits, in parenthesis.

Swiftsure Bank inbound and outbound slowdown trial

Inbound participation rates <i>Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed</i>			
Ship type	Week 9: July 23 - July 29	Week 10: July 30 - August 5	Cumulative (June 1 - August 5)
Inbound Bulk Carrier	85% (22 of 26)	71% (22 of 31)	75%
Inbound Car Carrier	86% (6 of 7)	100% (9 of 9)	86%
Inbound Container	89% (24 of 27)	89% (17 of 19)	85%
Inbound Passenger	93% (13 of 14)	100% (16 of 16)	79%
Inbound Tanker	100% (6 of 6)	79% (11 of 14)	84%
Inbound Other	80% (8 of 10)	67% (6 of 9)	77%
TOTAL			80% (779 of 972)

Outbound participation rates <i>Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed</i>			
Ship type	Week 9: July 23 - July 29	Week 10: July 30 - August 5	Cumulative (June 1 - August 5)
Outbound Bulk Carrier	90% (28 of 31)	93% (26 of 28)	83%
Outbound Car Carrier	100% (11 of 11)	88% (7 of 8)	67%
Outbound Container	81% (21 of 26)	88% (23 of 26)	84%
Outbound Passenger	80% (12 of 15)	71% (10 of 14)	73%
Outbound Tanker	63% (5 of 8)	55% (6 of 11)	75%
Outbound Other	92% (11 of 12)	82% (9 of 11)	77%
TOTAL			79% (760 of 960)

Combined (inbound and outbound) participation rates <i>Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed</i>			
Ship type	Week 9: July 23 - July 29	Week 10: July 30 - August 5	Cumulative (June 1 - August 5)
Combined Bulk Carrier	88% (50 of 57)	81% (48 of 59)	79%
Combined Car Carrier	94% (17 of 18)	94% (16 of 17)	76%
Combined Container	85% (45 of 53)	89% (40 of 45)	85%
Combined Passenger	86% (25 of 29)	87% (26 of 30)	76%
Combined Tanker	79% (11 of 14)	68% (17 of 25)	79%
Combined Other	86% (19 of 22)	75% (15 of 20)	77%
TOTAL			80% (1539 of 1932)

Over the last two weeks, large commercial vessel operators have participated at record-high rates in the inbound and outbound slowdown trial at Swiftsure Bank, resulting in a two per cent increase in the cumulative participation rate—up to **80%** from 78%. Thank you to all participating ship

operators and partners for your continued efforts to reduce underwater noise in this key foraging area for the southern resident killer whales.

Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown

Pilot-reported participation by ship type			
Ship type	Week 9: July 23 - July 29	Week 10: July 30 - August 5	Cumulative (June 1 - August 5)
Bulk Carrier	90% (47 of 52)	100% (54 of 54)	94%
Car Carrier	100% (6 of 6)	100% (5 of 5)	92%
Container	100% (26 of 26)	100% (24 of 24)	96%
Passenger	100% (1 of 1)	50% (1 of 2)	85%
Tanker	100% (4 of 4)	100% (7 of 7)	94%
Other	no transits	no transits	88%
TOTAL			94% (855 of 911)

The cumulative participation rate in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown has increased by one per cent—up to **94%**—since our last report on participation rates. We are pleased to see participation rates continue to increase and thank all participating ship operators and the BC Coast Pilots for their strong voluntary participation in the slowdown over the last ten weeks.

Lateral displacement in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

The cumulative participation rate in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement has remained exceptionally strong at **98%**, thanks to the continued efforts of tug operators to move south of the known killer whale foraging area off Vancouver Island.

Partner spotlight: Marine mammal observers Olivia and Lauren



Our trusted marine mammal observers, Lauren (left) and Olivia (right), watching for whales on Saturna Island

As southern resident killer whales travel throughout the Salish Sea in search of salmon, we rely on trusted marine mammal observers like Olivia Murphy and Lauren Laturus to provide updates on where the whales are relative to our voluntary measures.

Every day for the last two and a half months, Olivia and Lauren have monitored marine mammal presence from East Point on Saturna Island, using binoculars and underwater microphones—also known as “hydrophones”—to visually and acoustically detect whales in the area.

This information is shared with the ECHO Program team and plays an important role in helping us plan and implement our voluntary initiatives. Additionally, this information is contributing to Olivia’s thesis at Simon Fraser University, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in ecological restoration.

The ECHO Program team extends a warm thank you to Olivia and Lauren for being our trusted “eyes” and “ears” out on the water, and for the important role they play in this regional effort to support the recovery of southern resident killer whales.

Whale sighting highlight



Several southern resident killer whales passing by Saturna Island on August 5, 2022
Photo: Olivia Murphy

Stay up to date on the ECHO Program

Throughout the season, we will continue to share bi-weekly newsletter updates on participation rates in the ECHO Program's voluntary initiatives, and other relevant news. If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about the ECHO Program and its 2022 voluntary initiatives, please email us at echo@portvancouver.com.

Best regards,

The ECHO Program

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