



ECHO Program update on seasonal initiatives



Good afternoon,

As we begin our fifth month of coordinating voluntary underwater noise reduction measures across the Salish Sea, we are pleased to report that participation rates of more than 80% have been maintained in all three of the ECHO Program's voluntary initiatives to support the recovery of southern resident killer whales.

We thank all large commercial ship operators and tug operators who continue to voluntarily slow down or stay distanced in key areas of importance to southern resident killer whales in Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, Swiftsure Bank, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Your ongoing support and participation in these efforts to reduce the impacts of shipping on at-risk whales is greatly valued, as at-risk whales continue to be sighted throughout the ECHO Program's slowdown and lateral displacement areas. Most recently, southern resident killer whales were sighted earlier near Eagle Point in Haro Strait.

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 parentheses.

Participation in the Swiftsure Bank slowdown trial

Inbound participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 15: Sept. 3 - Sept. 9	Week 16: Sept. 10 - Sept. 16	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept 16)
Inbound Bulk Carrier	84% (26 of 31)	83% (24 of 29)	79%
Inbound Car Carrier	71% (5 of 7)	100% (10 of 10)	85%
Inbound Container	90% (19 of 21)	86% (19 of 22)	86%
Inbound Passenger	100% (15 of 15)	92% (12 of 13)	84%
Inbound Tanker	100% (11 of 11)	70% (7 of 10)	85%
Inbound Other	92% (12 of 13)	63% (10 of 16)	77%
TOTAL			82% (1306 of 1586)

Outbound participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 15: Sept. 3 - Sept. 9	Week 16: Sept. 10 - Sept. 16	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept 16)
Outbound Bulk Carrier	83% (24 of 29)	94% (29 of 31)	84%
Outbound Car Carrier	80% (4 of 5)	75% (6 of 8)	67%
Outbound Container	79% (15 of 19)	86% (24 of 28)	85%
Outbound Passenger	79% (11 of 14)	81% (13 of 16)	74%
Outbound Tanker	89% (8 of 9)	83% (10 of 12)	78%
Outbound Other	100% (9 of 9)	53% (10 of 19)	74%
TOTAL			80% (1246 of 1563)

Combined (inbound and outbound) participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 15: Sept. 3 - Sept. 9	Week 16: Sept. 10 - Sept. 16	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept 16)
Combined Bulk Carrier	83% (50 of 60)	88% (53 of 60)	82%
Combined Car Carrier	75% (9 of 12)	89% (16 of 18)	76%
Combined Container	85% (34 of 40)	86% (43 of 50)	86%
Combined Passenger	90% (26 of 29)	86% (25 of 29)	80%
Combined Tanker	95% (19 of 20)	77% (17 of 22)	81%
Combined Other	95% (21 of 22)	57% (20 of 35)	75%
TOTAL			81% (2552 of 3149)

Over the last sixteen weeks, large commercial vessel operators have maintained strong participation rates in the inbound and outbound slowdown at Swiftsure Bank, keeping the cumulative participation rate of **81%**. Thank you to all participating ship operators and partners for continuing to slow down while transiting through this key foraging area for southern resident killer whales.

Participation in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown

Pilot-reported participation by ship type			
Ship type	Week 15: Sept. 3 - Sept. 9	Week 16: Sept. 10 - Sept. 16	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept 16)
Bulk Carrier	85% (52 of 61)	92% (71 of 77)	93%
Car Carrier	100% (2 of 2)	62% (8 of 13)	89%
Container	91% (10 of 11)	100% (25 of 25)	96%
Passenger	100% (3 of 3)	100% (2 of 2)	90%
Tanker	100% (5 of 5)	83% (5 of 6)	93%
Other	50% (1 of 2)	100% (4 of 4)	85%
TOTAL			93% (680 of 730)

The cumulative participation rate in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown has remained strong at **93%**. We thank all participating ship operators and the BC Coast Pilots for making the effort to reduce underwater noise in this key area of southern resident killer whale critical habitat over the last sixteen weeks.

Participation in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement

Over the last two weeks, tug operators have participated at a rate of 100% in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement — increasing the cumulative participation rate to **97%**. We thank all tug operators for their efforts to laterally displace away from the known southern resident killer whale feeding area.

Whale sighting highlight



Earlier this month, J-Pod member “Mike” (J-26) was sighted foraging near Lime Kiln lighthouse in Haro Strait. Mike — who is named after late Canadian whale researcher Dr. Michael Bigg — is the oldest living male member of the J-Pod and is often seen foraging with his mother Slick (J-16) and two sisters, Alki (J-36), and Echo (J-42).

Photo: Jeanne Hyde

Partner spotlight: Marine Mammal Desk



Desiree Wong, a trainee at the Canadian Coast Guard's Marine Mammal Desk, monitors for whale presence from her desk in Sidney, British Columbia.

Based in Sidney, British Columbia, the **Marine Mammal Desk** is a service desk staffed by the Canadian Coast Guard that plays an important role in monitoring, detecting, and reporting on the presence of marine mammals along British Columbia's coast. Staffed by seven specially trained officers, Marine Mammal Desk personnel monitor for ships within the vicinity of whales seven days a week, 24 hours a day, using technologies such as radar and automatic identification systems. By reporting on this information in real-time, the Marine Mammal Desk helps ensure that ships remain distanced from designated whale protection areas, such as the Interim Sanctuary Zones implemented by Transport Canada.

This year, the Marine Mammal Desk has played a key role in supporting the launch of the ECHO Program's first ship slowdown trial in the inbound shipping lane at Swiftsure Bank. Every day, staff communicate with commercial ship operators as they enter the Strait of Juan de Fuca, reminding them about the voluntary slowdown trial and ensuring they have all the information they need to participate. With their support, and that of our other partners and advisors, participation in the Swiftsure Bank inbound slowdown trial has remained strong at 82%.

Desiree Wong, pictured above, has been working at the Marine Mammal Desk for the last ten months, and says that the job has been both a rewarding way to help protect local marine life, and a fast-track to learning about one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems. "I used to think that I knew a lot about the marine life here in Southern Vancouver Island," she said, "but since working at the desk, I've vastly expanded my knowledge, and that has been very exciting."

The ECHO Program team extends a warm thank you to Desiree, and all staff at the Marine Mammal Desk, for the important work they do to support the whale protection measures of both the ECHO Program and the Government of Canada.

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

This message is issued by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to keep subscribers up-to-date on events and activities. To stop receiving these emails click "Unsubscribe" below at anytime. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

VANCOUVER FRASER
PORT AUTHORITY
100 The Pointe
999 Canada Place
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3T4
Telephone: 604.665.9000