



ECHO Program's 2022 season sees all-time-high participation rates



Good afternoon,

As we near the end of the ECHO Program's 2022 season, we are poised to set **all-time-high participation rates** in two of our voluntary initiatives to support the recovery of southern resident killer whales. Currently, in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown, the participation rate is 93%, exceeding the previous record of 91% participation, while in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement, the participation rate is 97% — a 9 percent increase from the previous record of 88%. We thank our many advisors, partners, and more than **80 marine transportation organizations** for making these impressively high participation rates a reality.

The Swiftsure Bank slowdown trial and the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement will conclude at midnight on Monday, October 31. The Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown will remain active until southern resident killer whales are confirmed absent from the area. Please stay tuned for an announcement on the final date of this initiative, which will be communicated via email and through our various partners. We ask for your continued support and participation in these final days of the season, as we strive to finish this season strong.

Excitingly, as our seasonal measures conclude, a neighbouring program to the south called the

Quiet Sound program has launched its first ship slowdown trial for endangered killer whales in Puget Sound. The new slowdown, which began on October 24, will run until December 22, 2022. We encourage all ship operators transiting through the area to participate in this slowdown, when safe and feasible to do so. To learn more and stay up to date about Quiet Sound's initiatives, [subscribe to their newsletter](#) or [visit their website](#).

Participation rates in the ECHO Program's 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 19: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7	Week 20: Oct. 8 - Oct. 14	Cumulative (June 1 - Oct. 14)
Inbound Bulk Carrier	86% (24 of 28)	82% (41 of 50)	80%
Inbound Car Carrier	89% (8 of 9)	80% (8 of 10)	86%
Inbound Container	88% (22 of 25)	91% (21 of 23)	87%
Inbound Passenger	70% (7 of 10)	100% (5 of 5)	85%
Inbound Tanker	100% (9 of 9)	83% (10 of 12)	86%
Inbound Other	94% (16 of 17)	89% (8 of 9)	79%
TOTAL			83% (1632 of 1961)

Outbound participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 19: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7	Week 20: Oct. 8 - Oct. 14	Cumulative (June 1 - Oct. 14)
Outbound Bulk Carrier	87% (34 of 39)	83% (33 of 40)	85%
Outbound Car Carrier	100% (7 of 7)	88% (7 of 8)	72%
Outbound Container	89% (17 of 19)	83% (24 of 29)	85%
Outbound Passenger	93% (13 of 14)	86% (6 of 7)	77%
Outbound Tanker	80% (8 of 10)	82% (9 of 11)	78%
Outbound Other	71% (10 of 14)	71% (5 of 7)	74%
TOTAL			81% (1570 of 1941)

Combined (inbound and outbound) participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 19: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7	Week 20: Oct. 8 - Oct. 14	Cumulative (June 1 - Oct. 14)
Combined Bulk Carrier	87% (58 of 67)	82% (74 of 90)	82%
Combined Car Carrier	94% (15 of 16)	83% (15 of 18)	79%
Combined Container	89% (39 of 44)	87% (45 of 52)	86%
Combined Passenger	83% (20 of 24)	92% (11 of 12)	81%
Combined Tanker	89% (17 of 19)	83% (19 of 23)	82%
Combined Other	84% (26 of 31)	81% (13 of 16)	77%
TOTAL			82% (3202 of 3902)

The cumulative participation rate in the Swiftsure Bank slowdown trial has remained strong at **82%**. Thank you to all ship operators and partners for your continued efforts to create a quieter underwater environment for the whales in this key southern resident killer whale foraging area.

Participation in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown

Pilot-reported participation by ship type			
Ship type	Week 19: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7	Week 20: Oct. 8 - Oct. 14	Cumulative (June 1 - Oct. 14)
Bulk Carrier	85% (52 of 61)	93% (82 of 88)	93%
Car Carrier	90% (9 of 10)	89% (8 of 9)	88%
Container	90% (18 of 20)	96% (24 of 25)	96%
Passenger	100% (12 of 12)	100% (5 of 5)	95%
Tanker	75% (6 of 8)	100% (4 of 4)	91%
Other	100% (3 of 3)	100% (2 of 2)	89%
TOTAL			93% (1860 of 2002)

The cumulative participation rate in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown is poised to set an all-time high record at **93%**. We thank all participating ship operators and the BC Coast Pilots for their efforts to reduce underwater noise in this key area of southern resident killer whale critical habitat.

Participation in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement

The cumulative participation rate in the Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement is also poised to set an all-time-high record at **97%**. We thank all tug operators for their efforts to laterally displace away from this important area of southern resident killer whale critical habitat over the last twenty weeks.

Partner spotlight: BC Coast Pilots

Since the launch of the ECHO Program's first ship slowdown trial in 2017, the BC Coast Pilots have played an instrumental role in making the program's initiatives a success. The BC Coast Pilots are an independent organization mandated under the *Pilotage Act* to board and guide all foreign ships coming in and out of British Columbia's ports to ensure of safety, efficiency and environmental protection. Using their expert knowledge of local waters, the BC Coast Pilots' 120 marine pilots safely navigate ships from all around the world through British Columbia's waterways.

In the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown, the BC Coast Pilots often provide ship operators with their first in-person introduction to the ECHO Program. When a ship reaches Victoria, a pilot boards the ship and takes on navigational conduct until it reaches its destination in Vancouver. While onboard, the pilot advises the ship's captain of the overall importance of the ECHO Program, and the pilot and the ship's captain assess whether it is navigationally safe and feasible to slow down to the target slowdown speed. Thanks to these voluntary efforts by the BC Coast Pilots – as well as ship agents, owners, and shipping associations



– participation in the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass slowdown has reached an all-time-high of 93% this season.

Roger Williams, pictured above, has piloted ships with the BC Coast Pilots for eleven years, and now serves as one of the organization’s directors. Williams – who began his mariner career as a commercial fisherman – takes pride in the BC Coast Pilots’ work to support the recovery of endangered whales while enabling safe ship navigation. “Being on the water anywhere on this coast is always a front row seat to incredible scenery and wildlife,” Williams said, adding: “Representing Canada as we climb aboard the ladders of ships, day and night, to safely guide them to their berth or anchorage always keeps things interesting.”

The ECHO Program team extends a warm thank you to Roger and the entire BC Coast Pilots team for their longstanding support of the ECHO Program’s initiatives, and the integral role they play in keeping B.C.’s 15,000 miles of coastline safe.

Whale sighting highlight



This week’s whale sighting highlight is a throwback to last September, when K-Pod member “Spock” (K-20) was sighted transiting nearby a ship in Haro Strait. Though it was not known at the time, Spock was about 10 months pregnant in this photograph, and would go on to give birth to her calf K-45, who was recently confirmed to be female by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Photo: Jeanne Hyde

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