



ECHO Program update on seasonal initiatives



Good afternoon,

As the end of the ECHO Program's 2022 season approaches, we are pleased to report that participation rates continue to exceed 80% in all three of our voluntary initiatives to support the recovery of southern resident killer whales. This translates to **more than 4,500** ship transits made at a reduced speed or increased distance from key areas of southern resident killer whale critical habitat.

We thank our many participants, partners, and advisors — from large commercial ship operators, tug owners and operators, the BC Pilots, Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards, and many, many more — for the key role they have each played in making these consistently strong results a reality. Your continued efforts to create a quieter underwater environment for the whales are greatly valued.

Please continue to remain vigilant when transiting through the area, as southern resident killer whales and other at-risk whales continue to be observed throughout the region by our marine mammal observers. Most recently, members of the J-Pod were seen traveling northbound through the Haro Strait slowdown area.

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 17: Sept. 17 - Sept. 23	Week 18: Sept. 24 - Sept. 30	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept. 30)
Inbound Bulk Carrier	93% (28 of 30)	64% (14 of 22)	79%
Inbound Car Carrier	100% (4 of 4)	100% (6 of 6)	86%
Inbound Container	83% (20 of 24)	89% (16 of 18)	86%
Inbound Passenger	100% (11 of 11)	90% (9 of 10)	85%
Inbound Tanker	90% (9 of 10)	100% (13 of 13)	86%
Inbound Other	80% (12 of 15)	100% (6 of 6)	78%
TOTAL			83% (1453 of 1754)

Outbound participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 17: Sept. 17 - Sept. 23	Week 18: Sept. 24 - Sept. 30	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept. 30)
Outbound Bulk Carrier	88% (23 of 26)	100% (28 of 28)	85%
Outbound Car Carrier	75% (6 of 8)	100% (6 of 6)	69%
Outbound Container	79% (15 of 19)	83% (10 of 12)	85%
Outbound Passenger	90% (18 of 20)	83% (10 of 12)	76%
Outbound Tanker	75% (6 of 8)	86% (12 of 14)	78%
Outbound Other	85% (11 of 13)	83% (5 of 6)	74%
TOTAL			80% (1397 of 1736)

Combined (inbound and outbound) participation rates <i>(Within 1-knot of speed-through-water target speed)</i>			
Ship type	Week 17: Sept. 17 - Sept. 23	Week 18: Sept. 24 - Sept. 30	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept. 30)
Combined Bulk Carrier	91% (51 of 56)	84% (42 of 50)	82%
Combined Car Carrier	83% (10 of 12)	100% (12 of 12)	78%
Combined Container	81% (35 of 43)	87% (26 of 30)	86%
Combined Passenger	94% (29 of 31)	86% (19 of 22)	81%
Combined Tanker	83% (15 of 18)	93% (25 of 27)	82%
Combined Other	82% (23 of 28)	92% (11 of 12)	76%
TOTAL			82% (2850 of 3490)

Over the last two weeks, participation in the Swiftsure Bank slowdown trial has been especially strong, resulting in a one percent increase in the cumulative participation rate to **82%** from 81%. 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 17: Sept. 17 - Sept. 23	Week 18: Sept. 24 - Sept. 30	Cumulative (June 1 - Sept. 30)
Bulk Carrier	96% (65 of 68)	91% (60 of 66)	93%
Car Carrier	60% (3 of 5)	100% (8 of 8)	88%
Container	100% (23 of 23)	96% (23 of 24)	96%
Passenger	100% (11 of 11)	100% (15 of 15)	94%
Tanker	100% (4 of 4)	63% (5 of 8)	92%
Other	100% (5 of 5)	100% (1 of 1)	87%
TOTAL			93% (1635 of 1755)

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 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

Over the last two weeks, tug operators in the Strait of Juan de Fuca have continued to participate at the impressive rate of 100% — maintaining a cumulative participation rate of **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



Last weekend, J-Pod member “Shachi” (J-19) was sighted foraging near the shore at Lime Kiln lighthouse in Haro Strait. At around 40 years old, Shachi is known as the leading matriarch of the J-Pod and is the grandmother to “Nova” (J-51) and “Crescent” (J-58).

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

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