Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies in California’s National Marine Sanctuaries

Jessica Morten, Resource Protection Specialist contractor with NOAA’s Channel Islands and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Photo credit: John Calambokidis / Cascadia Research
RECORDED STRIKES in California

Recorded strikes on endangered whale species 1986 - 2018

CA Endangered Large Whale Strandings - Vessel Collisions 2000 - 2018

- 1 = Blue
- 2 = Fin
- 4 = Humpback
- 7 = Sei
- 10 = Unidentified Species
Reducing Ship Strike Risk

1. Reducing co-occurrence of whales and ships by adjusting Traffic Separation Schemes;

2. Establishing seasonal voluntary Whale Advisory and Speed Reduction Zones;

3. Establishing an incentive-based Vessel Speed Reduction program;

4. Supporting ongoing related research;

5. Engaging and working with industry/stakeholders.

Photo credit: Sean Hastings / NOAA CINMS
1. Reduce Co-occurrence

Amendments to the San Francisco Bay Traffic Separation Scheme - 2013

Amendments to the Santa Barbara Channel Traffic Separation Scheme - 2013
2. Voluntary Slow Speed Zones
(request to all ships 300 gross registered tons or more)

2019 SF Bay Region
May 1 – November 15, 2019

2019 Southern California
May 15 – November 15
## Percentage of cooperation, by year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Region NOAA Voluntary Slow Speed Request</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara Channel Region NOAA Voluntary Slow Speed Request</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(NOTE: CINMS VSR geographic zone and timeframe has varied year to year)*
3. Incentive-Based Program
(enrollment open to container and car carrier lines)

2019 SF Bay Region
Incentive Program VSR Zones

2019 Southern California
Incentive Program VSR Zones
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incentive Program Year</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Participating Companies</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Participating Vessels</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nautical Miles Traveled</td>
<td>2,700 nm</td>
<td>5,000 nm</td>
<td>12,630 nm</td>
<td>46,026 nm</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Ongoing Research and Monitoring
5. Industry Outreach and Engagement

Incentive Program Awards Ceremony
Port of LA - March 6, 2019

NOAA Voluntary VSR Awards Ceremony
San Francisco - May 16, 2019
PLS NOTE THAT WE HV SEE MANY WHALES AT ABOVE AREA

PSN: 37-05.7N,122-35.4W
Next Steps for West Coast Ship Strike Work

- Better understand the frequency of the issue
- Increase awareness of the issue
- Look into expanding Areas To Be Avoided (ATBAs) and explore additional TSS adjustments
- Continue to explore options for VSR policy
QUESTIONS?

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