Jessica Morten, Resource Protection Specialist contractor with NOAA’s Channel Islands and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries
Ship Strikes in California
Addressing / 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
1. Reduce Co-occurrence

Amendments to the San Francisco Bay Traffic Separation Scheme

Amendments to the Santa Barbara Channel Traffic Separation Scheme
2. Voluntary Slow Speed Zones

**NOAA Sanctuaries request vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger transit the San Francisco Traffic Separation Scheme (SF TSS) at 10 knots or less from May 1 - November 15. These areas contain populations of endangered blue, humpback and fin whales that are federally protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1538 et seq), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431 et seq). NOAA strongly recommends that vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger transiting the SF TSS do so at speeds not in excess of 10 knots.**

Please report any collisions with whales, or any observed injured or dead whales to NOAA at 877-SOS-WHALE (877-767-9425) or to the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16. If you see whales, please record sightings through WhaleAlert, a free application available at http://westcoast.whalealert.org.

For more details, contact Michael Carver (michael.carver@noaa.gov).

---

**NOAA strongly recommends that vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger transiting the Whale Advisory Zone do so at speeds not in excess of 10 knots. These areas contain populations of endangered blue, humpback, and fin whales that are federally protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1538 et seq), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361 et seq), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431 et seq).**

The whale advisory zone extends from approximately Dun Point to Pt. Arguello as depicted below and vessels are requested to transit at 10 knots or less anywhere in this zone. Vessels transiting the voluntary Western Traffic Lanes are also encouraged to transit within the Voluntary Western Zone to reduce the overlap of ships and endangered whales.

Please report any collisions with whales or any observed injured or dead whales to NOAA at 877-SOS-WHALE (877-767-9425) or to the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16. NOAA is asking for the public’s help in tracking whales. If you see whales, please record the date and location, the number of whales, the species (if known) and a description of the animals and report sightings through WhaleAlert, a free application available at http://westcoast.whalealert.org.

For more details, contact Sean Hastings at sean.hastings@noaa.gov or at (650) 693-6345.

**NOAA Whale Advisory Zone - 10 knots or less**

For more details, contact Michael Carver (michael.carver@noaa.gov).
3. Incentive-Based Program

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

NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Aerial Survey Program 2018 Large Whale Sightings

Species Sighted
- Blue Whale
- Fin Whale
- Gray Whale
- Humpback Whale
- Sperm Whale
- Unidentified Large Whale

Survey Effort

Data source: Sightings data collected by NOAA CINMS staff using SpotterPro, WhaleAlert, and Fulcrum data collection systems
Map source: Jess Morten/NOAA CINMS
5. Industry Outreach/ Stakeholder 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
- Expand Areas To Be Avoided (ATBAs) and explore additional TSS adjustments
- Continue to explore options for VSR policy