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

Recorded strikes on endangered whale species 1986 - 2018

- Blue Whale
- Fin Whale
- Humpback Whale
- Sei Whale
- Sperm Whale

Map source: Jeff Navy/NOAA CFMS
Data source: NOAA Stranding Data 2000 - 2018
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

NOAA recommends that vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger transiting the Whale Advisory Zone do so at speeds not in excess of 10 knots from May 15 – 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 1536 et seq), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361 et seq), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431 et seq). 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.

WILLIAM E. GILSEY, President, 1991-1994
## 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)
<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>

Photo credit: Jess Morten/NOAA CINMS
4. Ongoing Research and Monitoring

Data source: Sightings data collected by NOAA CNMS staff using SpotterPro, WhaleAlert, and Furturum data collection systems.
Map source: Jesus Martinez/NOAA-CNMS
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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