

PROTECTING BLUE WHALES AND BLUE SKIES

A Partnership for Cleaner Air, Safer Whales, and a Quieter Ocean



2020 Highlights

- 16 global shipping companies & 483 ships participated
- Total slow-speed distance: 181,306 nautical miles
- Emissions reductions:
 - 748 tons of smog-forming NOx
 - 24,258 metric tons of regional GHGs
- Ocean noise reduction: 4 dB/transit
- Reduction of ship strikes on whales:
 - SF Bay Area: 61%
 - SoCal Region: 30%

2020 Program Summary

To cut air pollution and protect endangered whales, we expanded the voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) incentive program for the Southern CA Region & San Francisco Bay Area in 2020. The 6th season of VSR ran May 15 to November 15, coinciding with peak ozone (smog) and whale feeding and migration seasons in these highly trafficked zones off the CA coast. A fleet-based approach is used, where a company's incentive increases as more of its fleet slows down to 10 knots or less. Reducing speeds reduces the likelihood of a ship strike on whales & amount of fuel burned. See VSR zone maps below.

SF Bay Region VSR Zones

SoCal Region VSR Zones



2020 Fleet Cooperation & Awards

Participating companies receive awards and recognition based on the percentage of total nautical miles traveled at 10 knots or less by each company's fleet of vessels.

Sapphire Tier (75-100%)



Gold Tier (50-74%)



Blue Sky Award (25% or more)



GIVING BACK

Thank you to the following companies who generously declined their 2020 financial incentives!



2014 to 2020, VSR Incentive Program Summary Table

Year	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Area	Santa Barbara Channel	Santa Barbara Channel Region	Santa Barbara Channel Region & San Francisco Bay Area			SoCal Region & SF Bay Area
# Companies	7	10	11	12	15	16
# Vessels	14	25	44	280	349	495
Slow-speed Distance (nautical miles)	2,700	5,000	12,630	46,026	99,019	181,306
NOx Reductions (tons)	12.4	25.6	84	266	536	748
Regional GHG Reductions (metric tons)	535	1,005	2,630	8,668	17,026	24,258
Ocean Noise Reduction (Decibels (dB) /transit)	--	--	--	--	SoCal: 6 (Gold & Sapphire award tiers only)	SoCal: 4 (All award tiers)
Ship Strike Risk Reduction	--	--	--	--	--	35%*

* Note: This represents the proportional decreases in risk from participating vessels and not absolute estimates of mortality avoided. Slower participating transits in the San Francisco VSR zone presented 61% lower mortality risk to whales than if they did not decrease speed, while mortality risk was lowered 30% in the Southern California area.

The table above shows participation, cooperation, and benefits of the incentive VSR program. The metrics for reductions in air pollution, noise, and ship strike risk are modeled results and represent benefits from only the enrolled companies operating during the incentive VSR time period within specified zones.

Since 2014, the voluntary VSR incentive program has seen increasing success and participation each year. We look forward to reducing air emissions, protecting endangered whales, and reducing anthropogenic noise pollution for this upcoming season.



Partners

