



Our Vision  Clean Air  
And Safer Whales



June 6, 2014

Dear Shipping Representative:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation are initiating a voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Trial Program (VSR trial) for the Santa Barbara Channel off California. The overall goals of the VSR trial are: to determine the potential for air quality and whale protection benefits from a voluntary VSR program in the Santa Barbara Channel; and, to test the shipping industry's willingness to participate in a non-regulatory approach to reduce vessel speed. Similar to the VSR program established by the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, participating vessels will be requested to reduce speed to 12 knots from Point Arguello to the boundary of the Ports' VSR zone (see attached map). The parameters of the VSR trial have been refined based on extensive input from government, non-government, shipping industry and port representatives.

As detailed in the attached Letter of Understanding, the VSR trial will take place from July 1 through October 31, 2014. The Letter of Understanding is between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a supporting foundation that will manage the actual payments for participating vessels, and individual shipping lines. The Santa Barbara Foundation and the APCD have generously granted approximately \$40,000 to offer financial incentives to approximately 16 ships at \$2,500 per vessel transit at or below 12 knots through the Santa Barbara Channel and VSR trial zone. A vessel's speed will be verified via Automatic Identification System (AIS) data. Vessels that have had baseline speeds for the past six months at or above 14 knots when transiting the Santa Barbara Channel are eligible. Vessels must also be participating in the Ports of Los Angeles and/or Long Beach VSR programs (either 20 or 40 nautical miles). In addition to the financial incentive on offer, we intend to work with participating shipping companies on a positive public relations campaign to draw public recognition to the VSR trial. Participation is voluntary and this one-time trial does not commit shipping industry participants beyond the trial period.

While the scope of the trial is limited to the Santa Barbara Channel, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and the threat of ship strikes on endangered whales extends beyond this region. In line with the goals stated above, there is an expectation that ships will make every effort to avoid speeding up once outside the VSR zone beyond their average baseline speed to "make up time" as a result of participating in the VSR trial. The VSR trial will be enhanced if a ship over its entire route (e.g., China to Port of LA) does not consume more fuel due to the slowdown in the Channel. Any

fuel records or data you can provide to APCD for a participating ship before and during the trial over the same route would help us determine if the VSR trial is achieving the stated goals. Similarly, documentation of total trip time for the same routes could serve as an indicator of fuel use. Participating vessels are also encouraged to report the number, location, and, if possible, species of any whales sighted, during each transit.

This program is only open for a limited time. Your quick response is needed to confirm your company's opportunity to participate. Please return the completed vessel registration form and signed Letter of Understanding to Sean Hastings with CINMS no later than June 30, 2014. For additional details, comments or questions on the VSR Trial Program please contact:

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We believe by working together we can maintain vibrant maritime commerce and protect human health and the marine environment. We thank you in advance for considering your company's participation in the VSR trial.

Sincerely,

  
APCD

  
CINMS

  
EDC

  
NMSF

Cc:  
PMSA

Enclosures:  
Letter of Understanding  
Vessel Registration Form  
Map of the VSR Zone in the Santa Barbara Channel