



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

As a voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Program along the California coast, we incentivize companies to incorporate sustainable shipping practices across their global supply chain. By creating seasonal and predictable slow-speed zones, we help these companies protect endangered whales, reduce fuel use and regional greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality and human health outcomes.

[www.bluewhalesblueskies.org](http://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org)



## 2021 Highlights

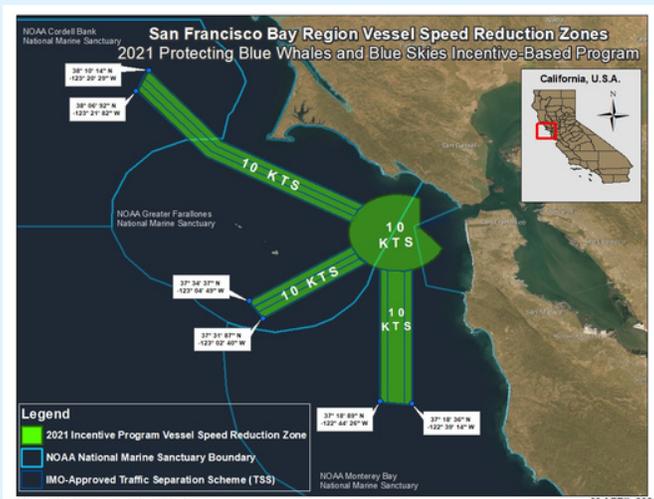
- 18 global shipping companies participated
- Total slow-speed distance: 179,530 nautical miles
- Emissions reductions:
  - 650 tons of smog-forming NOx
  - 22,201 metric tons of regional GHGs
- Ocean noise reduction: 5 dB/transit
- 50% reduction in risk of fatal ship strikes on whales

## 2021 Program Summary

To minimize air pollution and protect endangered whales, the voluntary VSR incentive program continued to expand and achieve environmental benefits in Southern CA Region & San Francisco Bay Area in 2021. The 7th season of VSR ran from 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 slow down to 10 knots or less. Reducing speeds reduces the likelihood of fatal ship strikes on whales & amount of fuel burned.

### SF Bay Region VSR Zones

### SoCal Region VSR Zones



# 2021 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 (85-100%)



MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY



SWIRE SHIPPING

## Gold Tier (60-84%)



MOL ACE  
Auto Carrier Express



OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS



## Blue Sky Award (35-59%)



## GIVING BACK

Thank you to the following companies who generously declined their 2021 financial incentives & reinvested them in the 2022 program!



OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS



# 2014 to 2021 VSR Incentive Program Summary Table

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

Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Program							
Program Year	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
VSR Zone	Santa Barbara Channel Region		Santa Barbara Channel Region & San Francisco Bay Region			Southern California Region & San Francisco Bay Region	
# Companies	7	10	11	12	15	16	18
# Vessels	14	25	44	295	349	483	545
Slow-speed Distance (nautical miles)	2,700	5,000	12,630	46,026	99,019	181,306	179,530
Overall Fleet Cooperation	--	--	--	36%	55%	60%	64%
NOx Reductions (tons)	12.4	25.6	84	266	536	748	650
Regional GHG Reductions (metric tons)	535	1,005	2,630	8,668	17,026	24,258	22,201
Ocean Noise Reduction (Decibels (dB) / transit)	--	--	--	--	SoCal: 6 (Gold & Sapphire award tiers only)	SoCal: 4 (All award tiers)	SoCal: 5 (All award tiers)
Ship Strike Risk Reduction *	--	--	--	--	--	35%	50%

\* Note: This represents the proportional decreases in risk from participating vessels and not absolute estimates of mortality avoided.

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 the 2022 VSR season.



## Program Partners



air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

