

WSC Whale Chart: A global navigational aid to protect whales



November 2023 Edition

Contact WSC

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About World Shipping Council

The World Shipping Council is the united voice of liner shipping, working with policymakers and industry groups to shape the future growth of a socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, safe, and secure shipping industry. We are a non-profit trade association with offices in Brussels, London, Singapore and Washington, D.C. Read more at www.worldshipping.org

Introduction

Ship strikes of cetaceans are an issue of concern internationally. Collisions between cetaceans and ships occur worldwide where there is an overlap between cetaceans and vessel activities.

This document is intended to assist readers with voyage planning to minimize the risk of ship strikes to cetaceans.

It provides an overview of governmental measures (both mandatory and voluntary), as well as well-known areas where the risk of ship strikes are widely recognized. Links to relevant sources are included where available.

DISCLAIMER: The information provided by the World Shipping Council in this document is intended for informational purposes only and must be relied upon solely at your own risk.

Every effort has been made to accurately reflect the most current available information at the time of their review.

The World Shipping Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or provide warranties of any kind.

This document should **NOT** be used as a substitute or source of precise navigational coordinates. Appropriate governmental information and charts should be consulted.

This document does **NOT** provide:

- live updates or real-time information concerning dynamic speed zones or other advisories that are designated with short-term notifications (e.g., U.S. NOAA's voluntary Dynamic Management Areas / Slow Zones notifications).
- information on all IMO-approved Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), and Areas to Be Avoided (ATBA).
- measures relating to underwater radiated noise or speed reduction restrictions that may be in effect for other reasons.

Readers are encouraged to report any errors, changes, or updates to the World Shipping Council (Wei-Jun Mun at wjmun@worldshipping.org).

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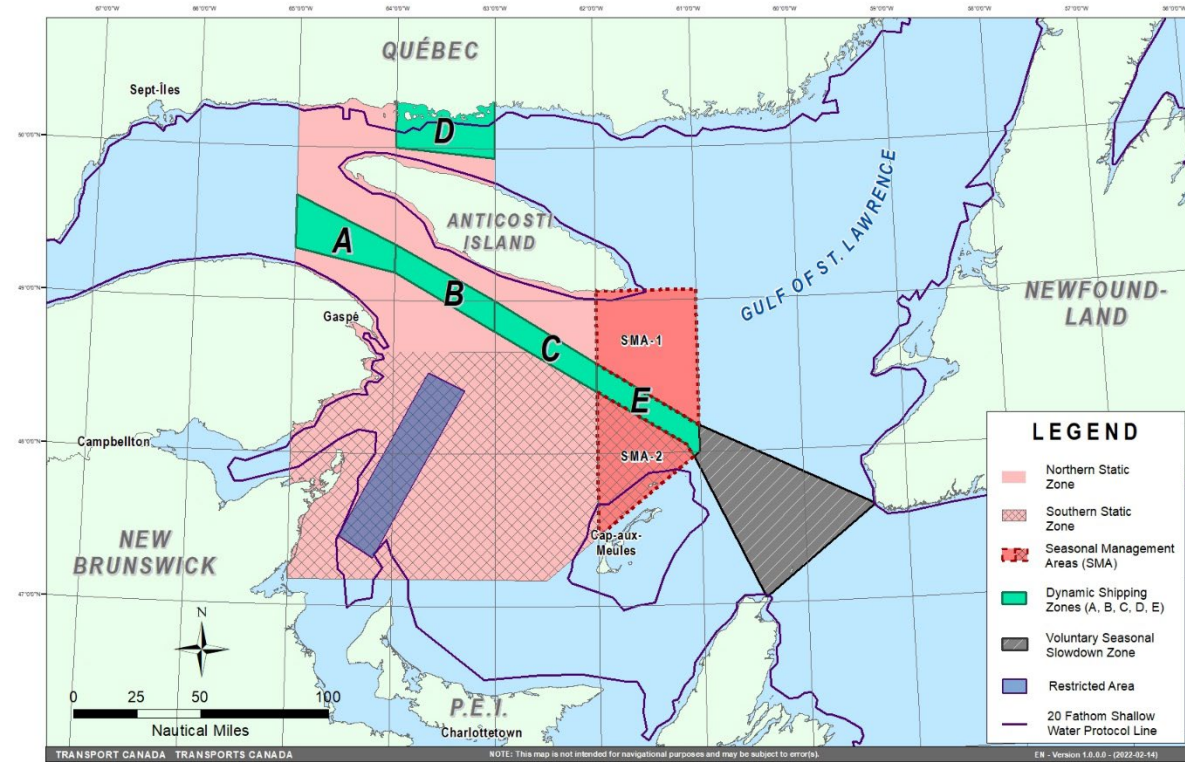
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1. North America

1.1 North America: Canada (Gulf of St. Lawrence)

1.1.1 Gulf of St. Lawrence



Source: [Transport Canada](https://www.transportcanada.gc.ca)

1.1.1.1 Mandatory slowdown (static zones)

- ≤10 knots speed over ground in Static Zones (19 April 2023 to 15 November 2023)

Northern Static Zone

(a) starting at 50°20' N, 65°00' W;
 (b) from there to 49°13' N, 65°00' W;
 (c) from there to 48°40' N, 64°13' W;
 (d) from there to 48°40' N, 62°40' W;
 (e) from there to 48°03' N, 61°07.5' W;
 (f) from there to 47°58.1' N, 61°03.5' W;
 (g) from there to 48°00' N, 61°00' W;
 (h) from there to 49°04' N, 61°00' W;
 (i) from there to 49°04' N, 62°00' W;
 (j) from there to 49°43' N, 63°00' W;
 (k) from there to 50°20' N, 63°00' W; and
 (l) from there to 50°20' N, 65°00' W.

Southern Static Zone

(a) starting at 48°40' N, 65°00' W;
 (b) from there to 48°40' N, 62°40' W;
 (c) from there to 48°03' N, 61°07.5' W;
 (d) from there to 47°58.1' N, 61°03.5' W;
 (e) from there to 47°10' N, 62°30' W;
 (f) from there to 47°10' N, 65°00' W; and
 (g) from there to 48°40' N, 65°00' W

1.1.1.2 Mandatory dynamic slowdowns in shipping lanes

- ≤10 knots speed over ground in Dynamic Shipping Zones A, B, C, D, E when at least one North Atlantic right whale is detected in or near the relevant zone (activated through a NAVWARN; remains in effect for min 15 days)

<p><u>Dynamic Shipping Zone A</u> (a) starting at 49°41' N, 65°00' W; (b) from there to 49°20' N, 65°00' W; (c) from there to 49°11' N, 64°00' W; (d) from there to 49°22' N, 64°00' W; and (e) from there to 49°41' N, 65°00' W.</p>	<p><u>Dynamic Shipping Zone B</u> (a) starting at 49°22' N, 64°00' W; (b) from there to 49°11' N, 64°00' W; (c) from there to 48°48' N, 63°00' W; (d) from there to 49°00' N, 63°00' W; and (e) from there to 49°22' N, 64°00' W.</p>
<p><u>Dynamic Shipping Zone C</u> (a) starting at 49°00' N, 63°00' W; (b) from there to 48°48' N, 63°00' W; (c) from there to 48°24' N, 62°00' W; (d) from there to 48°35' N, 62°00' W; and (e) from there to 49°00' N, 63°00' W.</p>	<p><u>Dynamic Shipping Zone D</u> (a) starting at 50°16' N, 64°00' W; (b) from there to 50°00' N, 64°00' W; (c) from there to 49°56' N, 63°00' W; (d) from there to 50°16' N, 63°00' W; and (e) from there along the coastline back to 50° 16' N, 64°00' W.</p>
<p><u>Dynamic Shipping Zone E</u> (a) starting at 48°35' N, 62°00' W; (b) from there to 48°24' N, 62°00' W; (c) from there to 48°03' N, 61°07.5' W; (d) from there to 47°58.1' N, 61°03.5' W; (e) from there to 48°00' N, 61°00' W; (f) from there to 48°10.5' N, 61°00' W; and (g) from there to 48°35' N, 62°00' W.</p>	

1.1.1.3 Mandatory slowdowns in Seasonal Management Areas

- From 19 April 2023 to 27 June 2023: ≤10 knots speed over ground in Seasonal Management Areas 1 & 2
- From 28 June 2023 to 15 November 2023: ≤10 knots speed over ground in Seasonal Management Areas 1 & 2 when at least one North Atlantic right whale is detected in the area (activated by a NAVWARN for min 15 days)

1.1.1.4 Voluntary slowdown in Seasonal Management Areas

- Post-season 15 November 2023 to 31 December 2023 – ≤10 knots speed over ground in the area if North Atlantic right whales are detected in the area; and/or maritime conditions permit vessels to safely operate at this speed

<p><u>Seasonal Management Area 1</u> (a) starting at 49°04' N, 62°00' W; (b) from there to 49°04' N, 61°00' W; (c) from there to 48°10.5' N, 61°00' W; (d) from there to 48°35' N, 62°00' W; and (e) from there to 49°04' N, 62°00' W.</p>	<p><u>Seasonal Management Area 2</u> (a) starting at 48°24' N, 62°00' W; (b) from there to 48°03' N, 61°07.5' W; (c) from there to 47°58.1' N, 61°03.5' W; (d) from there to 47°26.69' N, 62°00' W; and (e) from there to 48°24' N, 62°00' W.</p>
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1.1.1.5 Voluntary slowdown (Cabot Strait)

- 19 April 2023 to 27 June 2023; 27 September 2023 to 15 November 2023): ≤10 knots speed over ground in Cabot Strait

Cabot Strait

48° 10.5' N, 061° 00' W

47° 37.2' N, 059° 18.5' W

47° 02' N, 060° 23.7' W

47° 58.1' N, 061° 03.5' W

48° 00' N, 061° 00' W

1.1.2 Shediac Valley (Gulf of St. Lawrence)

1.1.2.1 Mandatory

- ATBA – will come into force once 80% of the restricted area is closed to fishing for the season as per the Department of Fisheries and Oceans's right whale closure protocol; is lifted once the North Atlantic right whale detections decrease in the restricted area; vessels above 13m in length (LOA) must:
 - avoid the area unless they are exempt as per the Interim Order for the Protection of North Atlantic Right Whales (*Eubalaena Glacialis*) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence;
 - transit the area at a speed not exceeding 8.0 knots over the ground if they are part of the exemptions

Shediac Valley Restricted Area

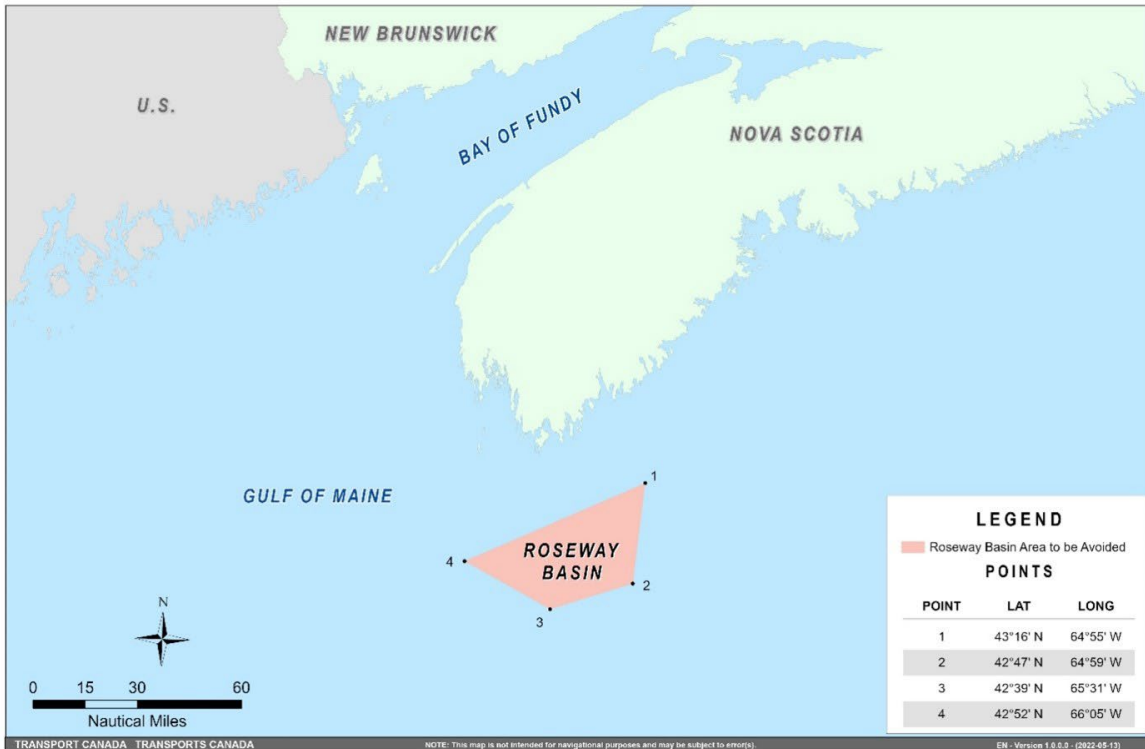
48° 31.8' N, 63° 39.6' W

48° 24.72' N, 63° 17.88' W

47° 18.84' N, 64° 10.8' W

47° 27.18' N, 64° 30.72' W

1.1.3 Roseway Basin (Gulf of St. Lawrence)



Source: [Transport Canada](#)

1.1.3.1 Voluntary

- ATBA (annually – 1 June to 31 December)

Roseway Basin

43°16' N 064°55' W

42°47' N 064°59' W

42°39' N 065°31' W

42°52' N 066°05' W



References / Resources:

- [Transport Canada North Atlantic right whale webpage](#)
- [Transport Canada Ship Safety Bulletin No. 05/2023](#)
- [Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners Special Edition 01/2023](#)
- [Interim Order for the Protection of North Atlantic Right Whales \(*Eubalaena glacialis*\) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 2023](#)
- To subscribe and receive navigational warnings (formerly known as notices to shipping) that are currently in force, visit the [Canadian Coast Guard website](#)
- Contact Transport Canada at: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free)



Report a North Atlantic right whale sighting

If you see live, free-swimming whales:

- Call 1-902-440-8611 (local) or 1-844-800-8568 (toll free)
- Email: XMARWhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

If you see a North Atlantic right whale that is entangled, injured or dead, please report it to your nearest Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre, or call:

Southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Marine Animal Response Society

Telephone: 1-866-567-6277

Newfoundland and Labrador

Whale Release and Strandings

Telephone: 1-888-895-3003

For the Québec Sector

Marine Mammal Emergencies

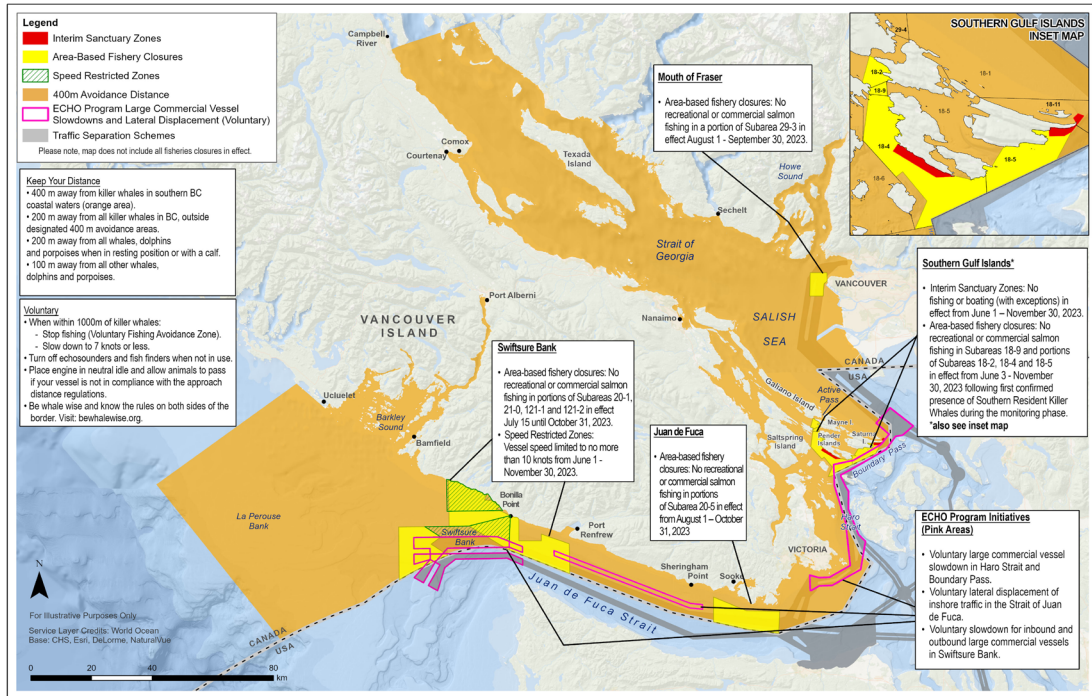
Telephone: 1-877-722-5346

Please consult WhaleMap for the latest right whale observations:

<https://whalemap.ocean.dal.ca/>

1.2 North America: Canada (Southern British Columbia)

1.2.1 Southern British Columbia – Overview of measures:



Overview of 2023 management measures to protect Southern Resident Killer Whales

Canada

Source: Transport Canada

1.2.1.1 Mandatory approach distance from whales

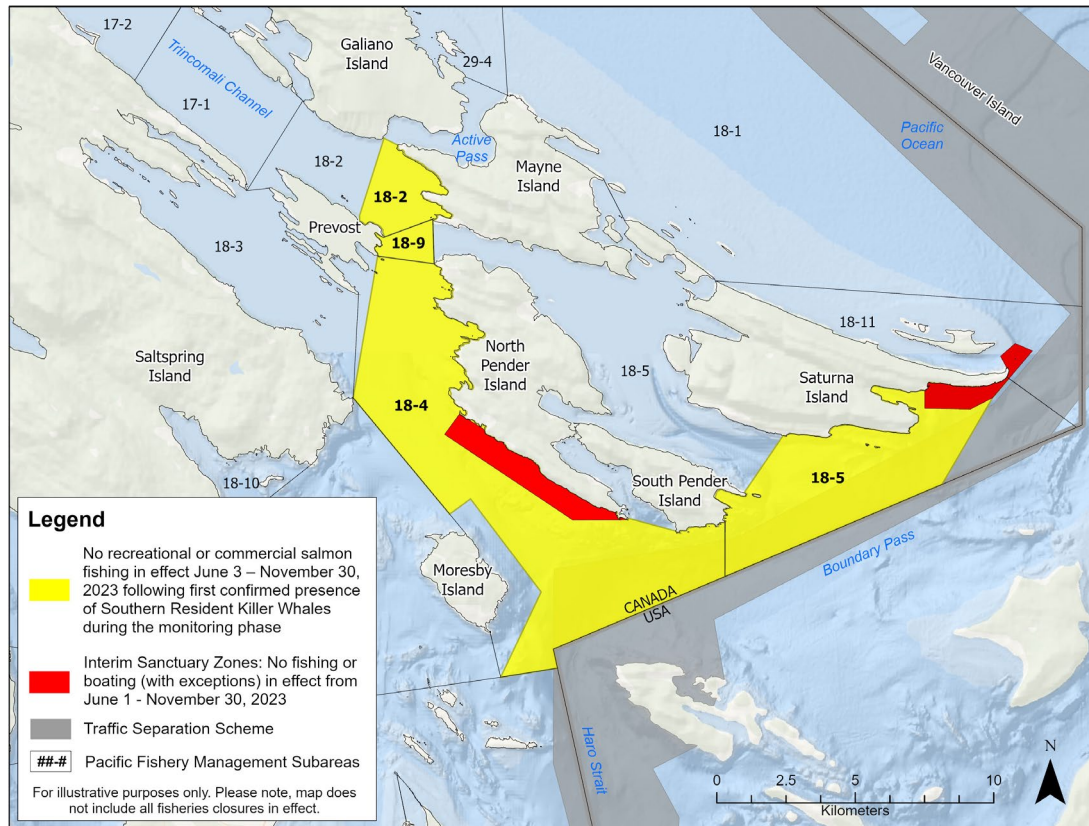
- Vessel must not approach within 400 metre of a killer whale in the waters indicated below (beginning 1 June 2023; does not apply to vessels in transit)
- Prohibition against positioning vessel in path of a killer whale in the waters indicated below (beginning 1 June 2023; does not apply to vessels at anchor)

Waters of Southern British Columbia

beginning at 50°03.807'N 124°50.610'W [Sarah Point];
 then to 49°52.486'N 124°33.903'W [north Powell River];
 then to 49°52.426'N 124°33.912'W [south Powell River];
 then to 49°46.436'N 124°16.815'W [north Jervis Inlet/Thunder Bay];
 then to 49°44.262'N 124°13.260'W [south Jervis Inlet];
 then to 49°43.838'N 124°12.572'W [north Blind Bay];
 then to 49°43.018'N 124°11.228'W [south Ballet Bay];
 then to 49°39.450'N 124°05.148'W [west Agamemnon Channel];
 then to 49°39.313'N 124°04.355'W [east Agamemnon Channel];
 then to 49°19.301'N 123°08.888'W [north Burrard Inlet];
 then to 49°18.775'N 123°08.882'W [south Burrard Inlet];
 then to 49°15.608'N 123°15.755'W [Towards Cove];
 then to 49°15.173'N 123°16.247'W [east Sea Island];
 then to 49°15.455'N 123°16.795'W [north Sea Island];
 then to 49°12.853'N 123°13.338'W [south Sea Island];
 then to 49°11.205'N 123°12.225'W [north Swishwash Island];
 then to 49°10.425'N 123°12.023'W [south Swishwash Island];

*then to 49°07.853'N 123°12.037'W [Steveston];
then to 49°06.128'N 123°19.335'W [north Strait of Georgia];
then to 49°05.368'N 123°19.342'W [south Strait of Georgia];
then to 49°07.058'N 123°11.647'W [Fraser River];
then to 49°06.532'N 123°11.232'W [Westham Island];
then to 49°04.062'N 123°09.410'W [south Canoe Passage];
then to 49°03.487'N 123°08.493'W [Roberts Bank];
then to 49°00.132'N 123°05.460'W [Boundary Bluff];
then adjacent to the United States border until 48°14.200'N 125°44.500'W [southern boundary
of the critical habitat of the Southern Resident killer whale];
then to 48°41.700'N 126°17.783'W [northwest boundary of the critical habitat of the Southern
Resident killer whale];
then to 48°59.685'N 125°40.152'W [Quisitis Point];
then to 48°55.253'N 125°32.517'W [Amphitrite Point];
then to 48°56.076'N 125°31.372'W [Stuart Bay];
then to 49°01.238'N 125°02.383'W [Hi'tatis];
then to 48°46.985'N 125°12.587'W [Cape Beale];
then to 48°39.645'N 124°49.205'W [west Clo-oose Bay];
then to 48°39.485'N 124°48.648'W [east Clo-oose Bay];
then to 48°33.703'N 124°27.812'W [west Port San Juan];
then to 48°33.110'N 124°25.742'W [east Port San Juan];
then to 49°59.092'N 125°13.390'W [Campbell River];
then to 50°03.807'N 124°50.610'W [Sarah Point].*

1.2.2 Interim Sanctuary Zones (off the eastern tip of Saturna Island and off the southwest coast of North Pender Island)



2023 Gulf Islands management measures

Canada

Source: Transport Canada

1.2.2.1 Mandatory ATBA:

- All vessels prohibited from entering two interim sanctuary zones (1 June 2023 to 30 November 2023)

Pender Island ISZ

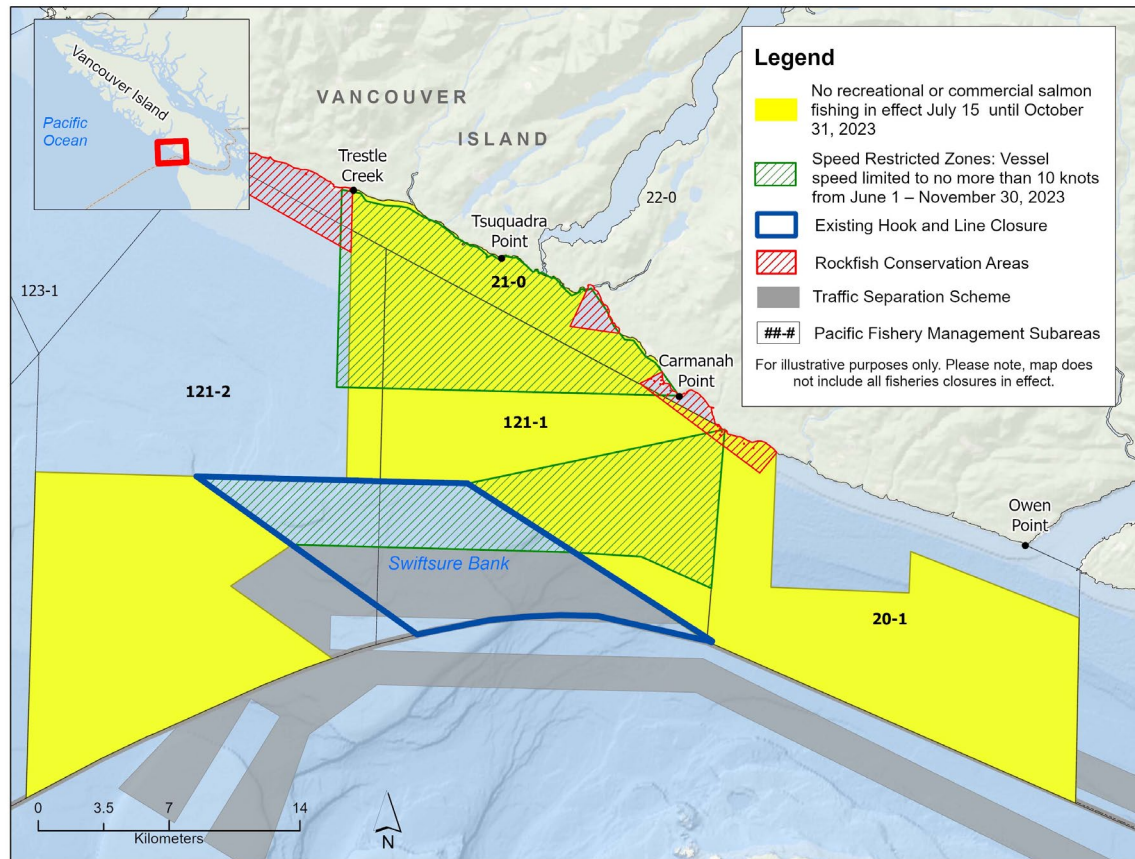
beginning at 48°45.817'N 123°19.300'W [northwest boundary];
 then to 48°46.217'N 123°18.867'W [northeast boundary];
 then to 48°44.167'N 123°13.917'W [southeast boundary];
 then to 48°44.153'N 123°15.517'W [southwest boundary];
 then to 48°45.817'N 123°19.300'W [northwest boundary].

Saturna Island ISZ

beginning at 48°47.150'N 123°02.733'W [northern boundary of East Point (shoreline)];
 then to 48°47.367'N 123°02.915'W [Tumbo Channel];
 then to 48°47.617'N 123°02.483'W [northwest boundary (east of Tumbo Point)];
 then to 48°47.473'N 123°01.975'W [northeast boundary (Boiling Reef)];
 then to 48°46.558'N 123°03.147'W [Boundary Pass];
 then to 48°46.333'N 123°03.805'W [southeast boundary];
 then to 48°46.350'N 123°05.150'W [southwest boundary (Narvaez Bay)];
 then to 48°46.683'N 123°05.150'W [Fiddlers Cove];

then to 48°47.150'N 123°02.733'W [northern boundary of East Point (shoreline)].

1.2.3 Near Swiftsure Bank



2023 Swiftsure Bank management measures

Canada

Source: Transport Canada

1.2.3.1 Mandatory seasonal slowdown areas:

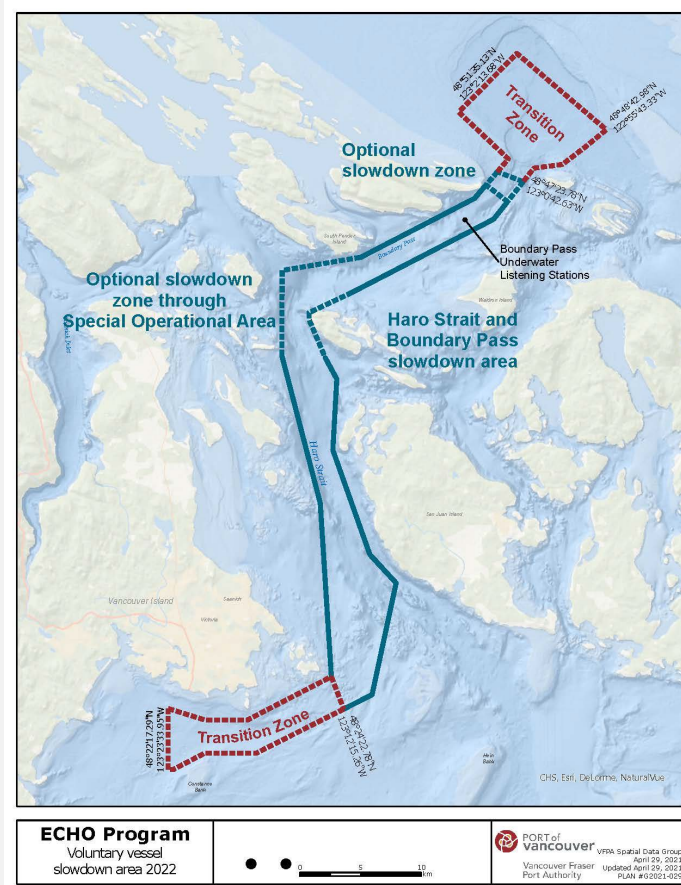
- ≤10 knots speed over ground in the two Seasonal Slowdown Areas (1 June 2023 to 30 November 2023)

Mouth of the Nitinat River
beginning at 48°42.377'N 125°00.000'W [northwest boundary];
then to 48°36.683'N 125°00.000'W [northwest boundary (Swiftsure Bank)];
then to 48°36.683'N 124°45.083'W [southeast boundary (Carmanah Point)];
then along the coastline to 48°42.377'N 125°00.000'W [northeast boundary].

Swiftsure Bank
beginning at 48°34.000'N 125°06.000'W [northwest boundary];
then to 48°32.100'N 125°01.760'W [southwest boundary];
then to 48°32.100'N 124°49.545'W [southern boundary (traffic separation scheme lane)];
then to 48°32.017'N 124°46.593'W [southern boundary (traffic separation scheme lane)];
then to 48°31.150'N 124°43.483'W [southeast boundary];
then to 48°35.717'N 124°43.067'W [northeast boundary];

then to 48°34.000'N 124°54.190'W [northern boundary];
then to 48°34.000'N 125°06.000'W [northwest boundary].

1.2.4 Haro Strait and Boundary Pass



1.2.4.1 Voluntary slowdown (1 June 2023 to 30 November 2023):

- ≤14.5 knots speed through water (for vehicle carriers, cruise ships and container vessels)
- ≤11 knots speed through water (for bulkers, tankers, ferries and government vessels)

The voluntary vessel slowdown takes place between the vessel traffic separation scheme at the south end of Haro Strait, and the vessel traffic separation scheme at the north end of Boundary Pass. Speed transition zones are in place within the established traffic system at both approaches to the slowdown area. The north transition zone are those waters between north of Boat Pass, Saturna Island and Rosenfeld Rock and the south transition zone are those waters between buoy VH at the Victoria pilot station, and Sea Bird Point at the southeast corner of

Discovery Island.

Source: [Port of Vancouver](https://www.portofvancouver.com)

North transition zone

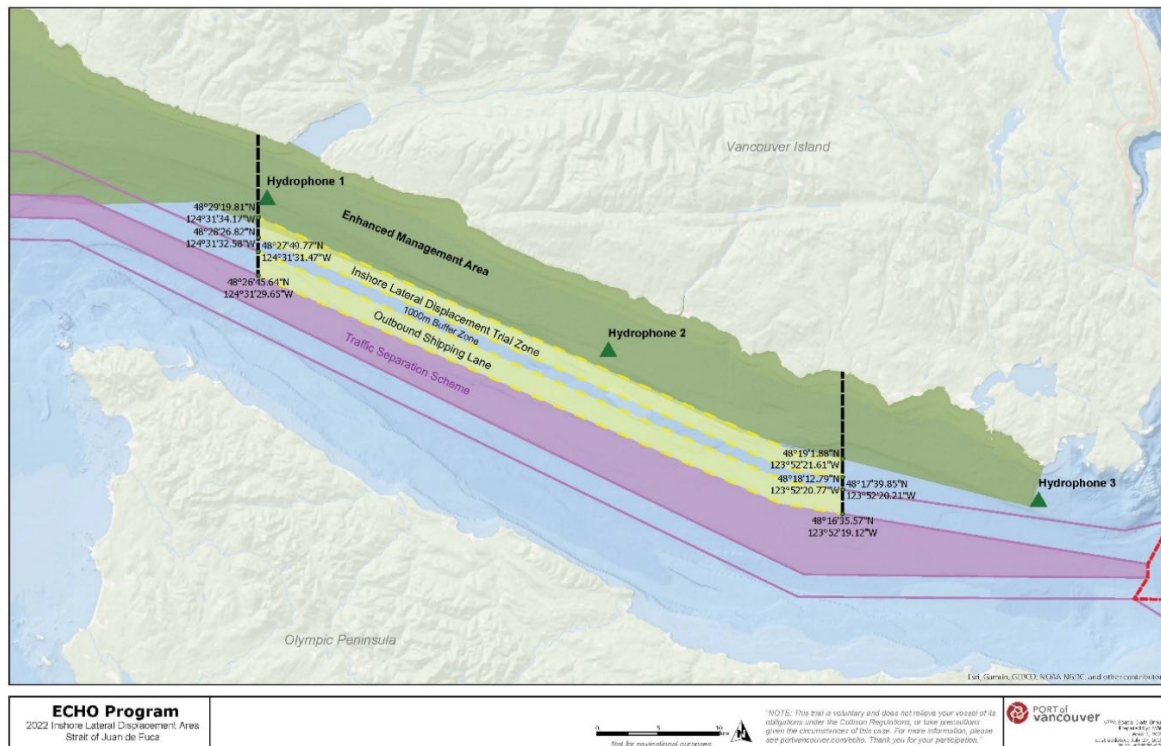
48°51'35.13"N 123°2'13.68"W
48°48'42.98"N 122°55'43.33"W
48°47'23.78"N 123°0'42.63"W

South transition zone

48°22'17.29"N 123°23'33.95"W
48°24'22.78"N 123°12'15.26"W

There are also two optional slowdown areas, one rounding turn point and the other between Turn point, Saturna Island and Alden Point, Patos Island.

1.2.5 Strait of Juan de Fuca



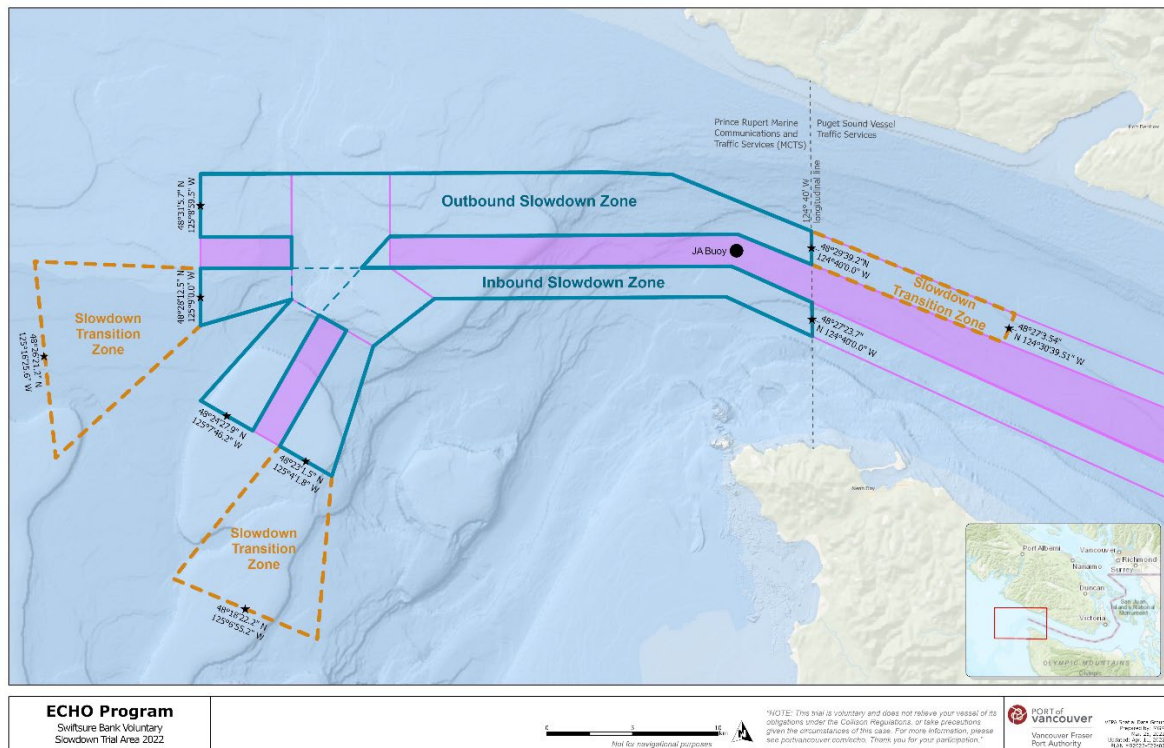
Source: [Port of Vancouver](https://portvancouver.com/echo)

1.2.5.1 Voluntary lateral displacement (1 June 2023 to 31 October 2023):

- Vessel routing – if it is safe and operationally feasible to do so, tugs are requested to move south of the known killer whale feeding area and navigate either through the outbound shipping lane or the inshore lateral displacement zone, while maintaining a buffer distance of 1,000 metres from the traffic separation scheme

The inshore lateral displacement zone is 1,500 m wide and occurs in the area between longitudes 123° 52.3532' W 48° 18.6222' N and 124° 31.5563' W 48° 28.8886' N, covering a distance of approximately 28 nm.

1.2.6 Swiftsure Bank



Source: Port of Vancouver

1.2.6.1 Voluntary slowdown (1 June 2023 to 31 October 2023):

- ≤14.5 knots speed through the water (for vehicle carriers, cruise ships and container vessels)
- ≤11 knots speed through the water (for bulkers, tankers, ferries and government vessels)

The voluntary vessel slowdown takes place in the inbound and outbound lanes of the vessel traffic separation scheme between the start or end of the traffic separation scheme on the western or southern side, and the 124° 40' W longitudinal line (radio call in point 1) on the eastern side. Speed transition zones are in place about 5 nautical miles prior to entering the slowdown area.



References / Resources:

- [Interim Order for the Protection of the Killer Whale \(*Orcinus orca*\) in the Waters of Southern British Columbia, 2023](#)
- To subscribe and receive navigational warnings (formerly known as notices to shipping) that are currently in force, visit the [Canadian Coast Guard website](#)
- Contact Transport Canada at: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free)
- [Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation \(ECHO\) Program](#)
- Subscribe to the ECHO Program newsletter to receive general news and updates about the program [here](#)
- Contact the ECHO Program team at echo@portvancouver.com or the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Operations Centre which is available 24/7 at 604.665.9086



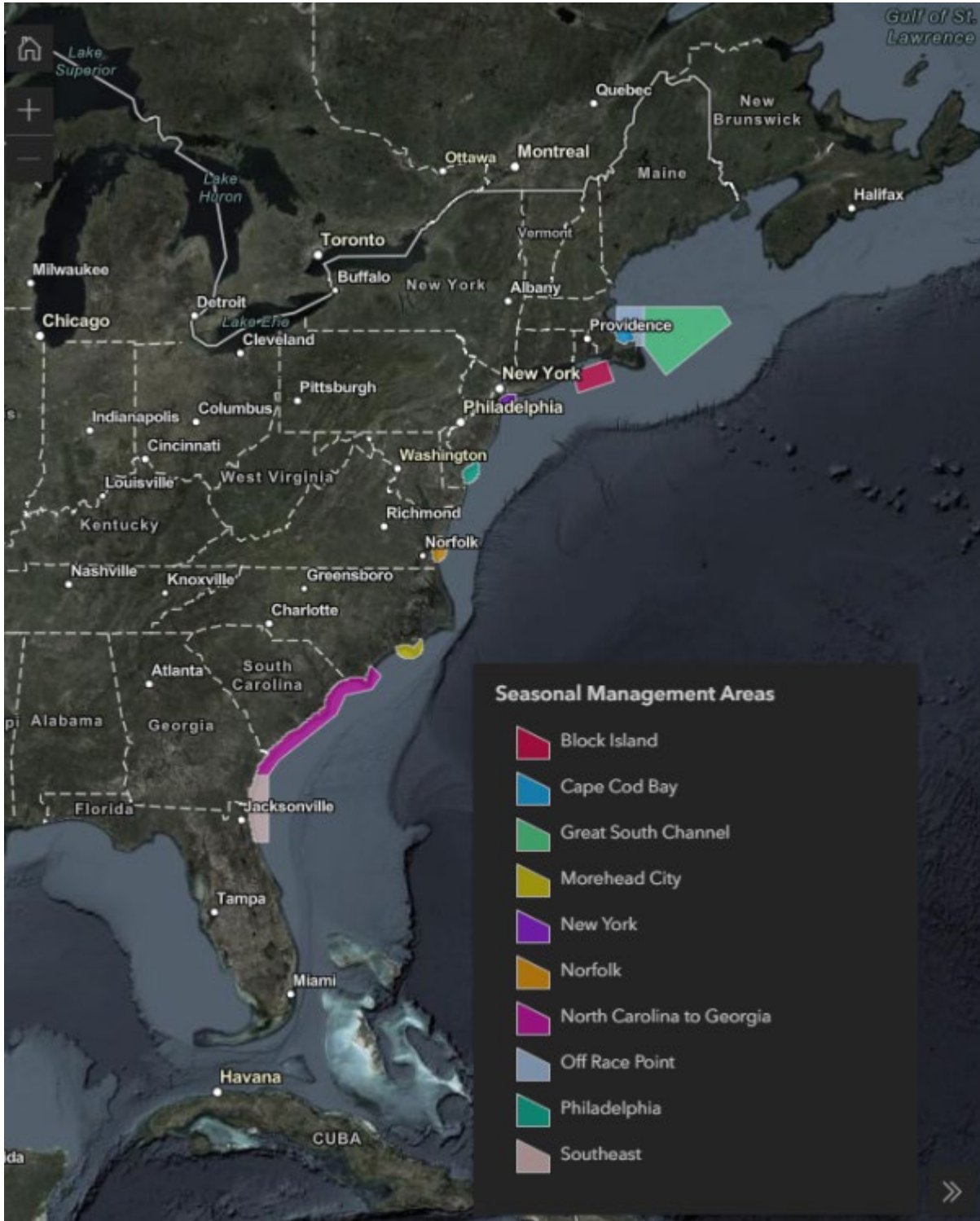
Report a killer whale in distress

If you see an injured, stranded, entangled or dead killer whale, contact this toll-free number or VHF channel:

- BC Marine Mammal Response Network: 1-800-465-4336
- VHF Channel 16

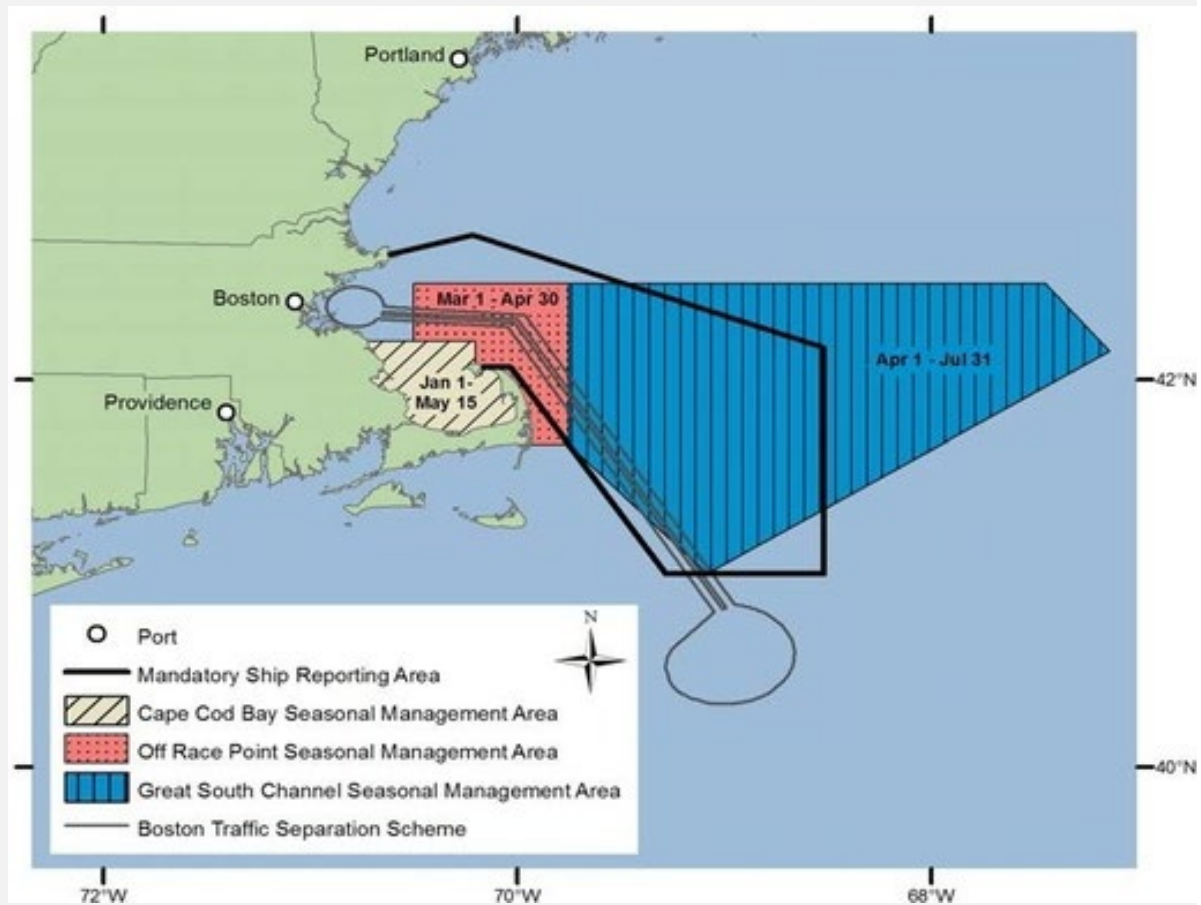
1.3 North America: United States (East Coast)

An overview of Seasonal Management Areas (SMA) along the U.S. East Coast. Most vessels 65 feet or longer must travel at 10 knots or less in these zones when active.



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

1.3.1 Northeast U.S.



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

1.3.1.1 Mandatory:

- ≤10 knots speed restriction in Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area (annually – 1 January to 15 May)
- ≤10 knots speed restriction in Off Race Point Seasonal Management Area (annually – 1 March to 30 April)
- ≤10 knots speed restriction in Great South Channel Seasonal Management Area (annually – 1 April to 31 July)
- TSS in Boston, Massachusetts (year-long)
- USCG WHALESNORTH ship reporting (year-long)

Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area
 42°04'56.5"N, 070°12'W
 42°12'N, 070°12'W then due west back to shore.

Off Race Point Seasonal Management Area
 42°04'56.5"N, 070°12'W
 42°12'N, 070°12'W
 42°12'N, 070°30'W
 42°30'N, 070°30'W
 42°30'N, 069°45'W
 41°40'N, 069°45'W then due west back to shore.

Great South Channel Seasonal Management Area

In the approach to Boston, MA: Traffic separation scheme.

42°30'N, 069°45'W
42°30'N, 067°27'W
42°09'N, 067°08'24"W
41°00'N, 069°05'W
41°40'N, 069°45'W then back to starting point.

(a) A separation zone 1 mile wide is established and is centered upon the following geographic positions:

42°20.73' N 70°39.06' W.
42°18.28' N 70°01.14' W.
40°49.25' N 69°00.81' W.

(b) A traffic lane for northbound traffic is established between the separation zone and a line connecting the following geographical positions:

40°50.47' N 68°58.67' W.
42°20.17' N 69°59.40' W.
42°22.71' N 70°38.62' W.

(c) A traffic lane for southbound traffic is established between the separation zone and a line connecting the following geographical positions:

42°18.82' N 70°40.49' W.
42°16.39' N 70°02.88' W.
40°48.03' N 69°02.95' W.

Source: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-P/part-167/subpart-B/section-167.77>

In the approach to Boston, MA: Precautionary areas.

(a) A precautionary area is established with a radius of 6.17 nautical miles centered upon geographical position 42°22.71' N, 70°46.97' W.

(b)

(1) A precautionary area is established and is bounded to the east by a circle of radius 15.5 miles, centered upon geographical position 40°35.01' N, 68°59.96' W, intersected by the traffic separation schemes in the approach to Boston, MA, and Eastern approach, off Nantucket (part II of the TSS off New York) at the following geographical positions:

40°50.47' N 68°58.67' W.
40°23.75' N 69°13.95' W.

(2) The precautionary area is bounded to the west by a line connecting the two TSSs between the following geographical positions:

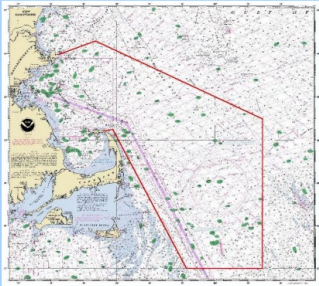
40°48.03' N 69°02.95' W.

40°36.76' N 69°15.13' W.

Source: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-P/part-167/subpart-B/section-167.76>

USCG WHALESNORTH ship reporting

WHALESNORTH
(operates year round)



EXAMPLE REPORT: Please follow the format exactly as outlined below.

```

WHALESNORTH//
M/487654321//
A/CALYPSO/NRUS//
B/031401Z APR//
E/345//
F/9.5//
H/031410Z APR/4104N/06918W//
I/BOSTON/032345Z APR//
L/WP/4104N/06918W/9.5//
L/WP/4210N/06952W/9.5//
L/WP/4230N/07006W/9.5//
    
```

NOAA Chart #13809

Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

The area coordinates (NAD 83) are as follows:
 from a point on Cape Ann, Massachusetts at 42°39'N, 70°37'W;
 then northeast to 42°45'N, 70°13'W;
 then southeast to 42°10'N, 68°31'W;
 then south to 41°00'N, 68°31'W;
 then west to 41°00'N, 69°17'W;
 then northwest to 42°05'N, 70°02'W;
 then west to 42°04'N, 70°10'W;
 and then along the Massachusetts shoreline of Cape Cod Bay and Massachusetts Bay back to the point on Cape Ann at 42°39'N, 70°37'W.

1.3.1.2 Voluntary:

- ATBA in Great South Channel (annually – 1 April to 31 July)
- Vessel routing off Boston, Massachusetts (annually – January to May)

Great South Channel ATBA

- (1) 41° 44'.14 N 069° 34'.83 W
- (2) 42° 10'.00 N 068° 31'.00 W
- (3) 41° 24'.89 N 068° 31'.00 W
- (4) 40° 50'.47 N 068° 58'.67 W



See also charts of approaches to Boston Traffic Separation Scheme and Area to be Avoided:

- [13200: Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals](#)
- [13203: Georges Bank Western Part](#)
- [13006: West Quoddy Head to New York](#)

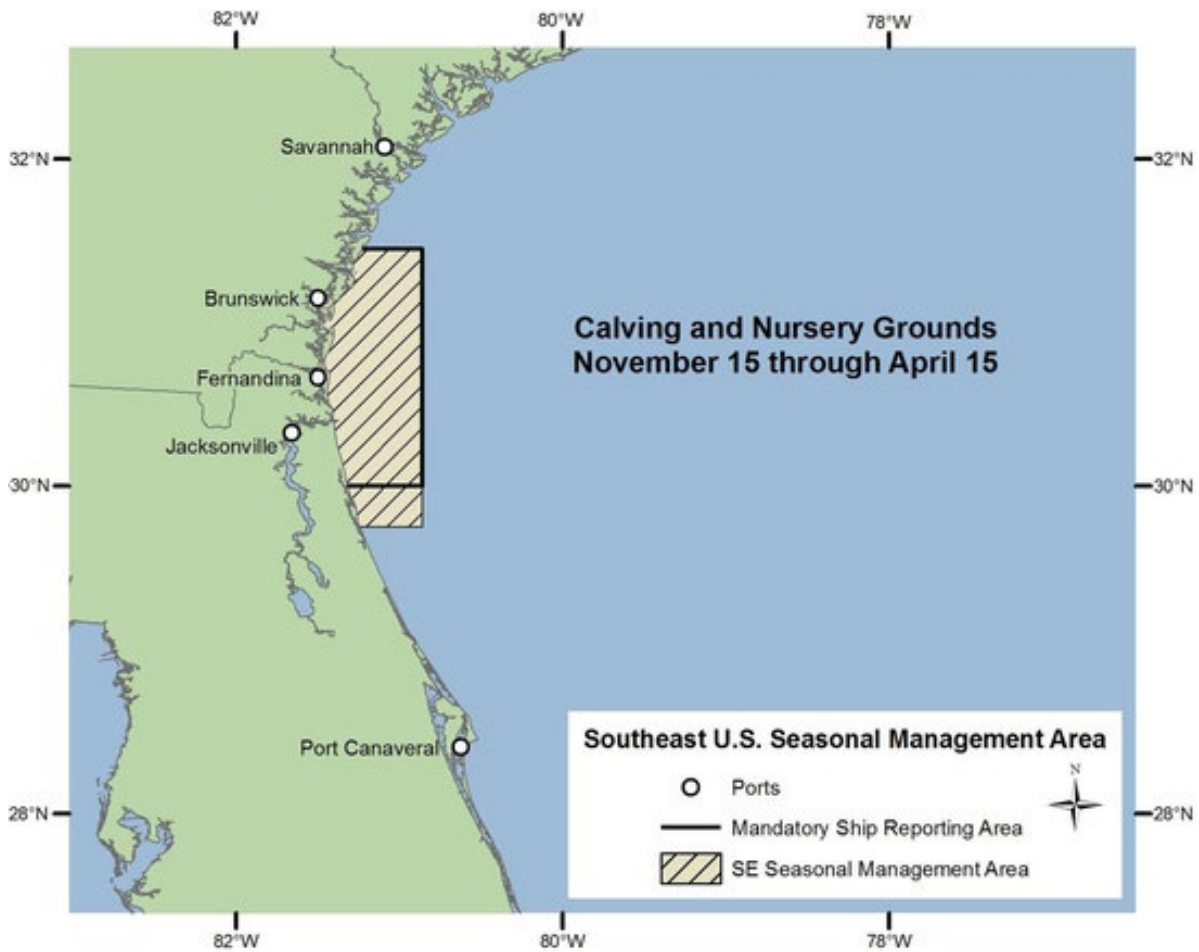
Vessel routing off Boston, Massachusetts



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

For navigation, refer to the current version of NOAA Chart 13246. The area shaded in blue is designed critical habitat for North Atlantic right whales 50 CFR 226.203(b)). This area is a critical feeding area for whales between January and May each year.

1.3.2 Southeast U.S.



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

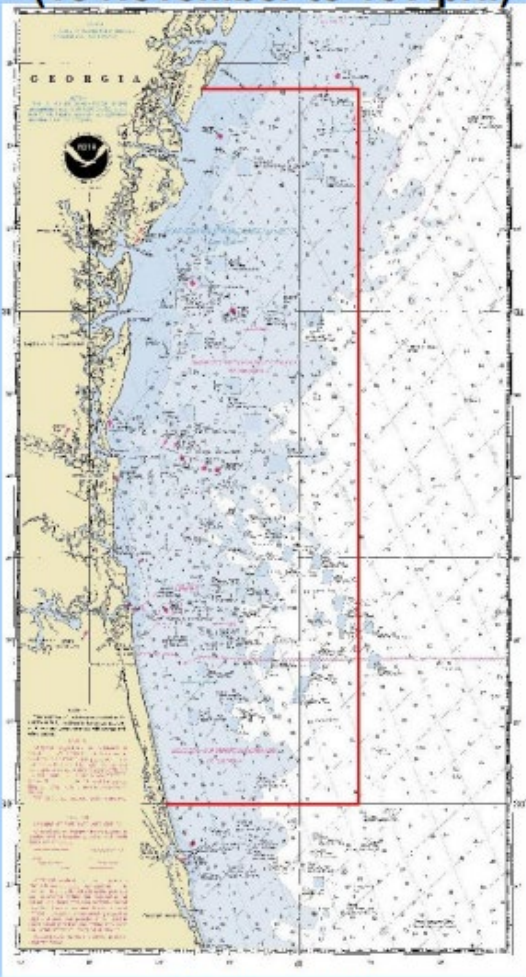
1.3.2.1 Mandatory:

- ≤10 knots speed restriction in Seasonal Management Areas with calving and nursery grounds (annually – 15 November to 15 April)
- USCG ship reporting (annually – 15 November to 16 April)

USCG WHALESSOUTH ship reporting

SE Seasonal Management Area

Vessel speed is restricted in the area bounded to the north by latitude 31°27'N; to the south by latitude 29°45'N; to the east by longitude 080°51'36''W.



NOAA Chart #11480

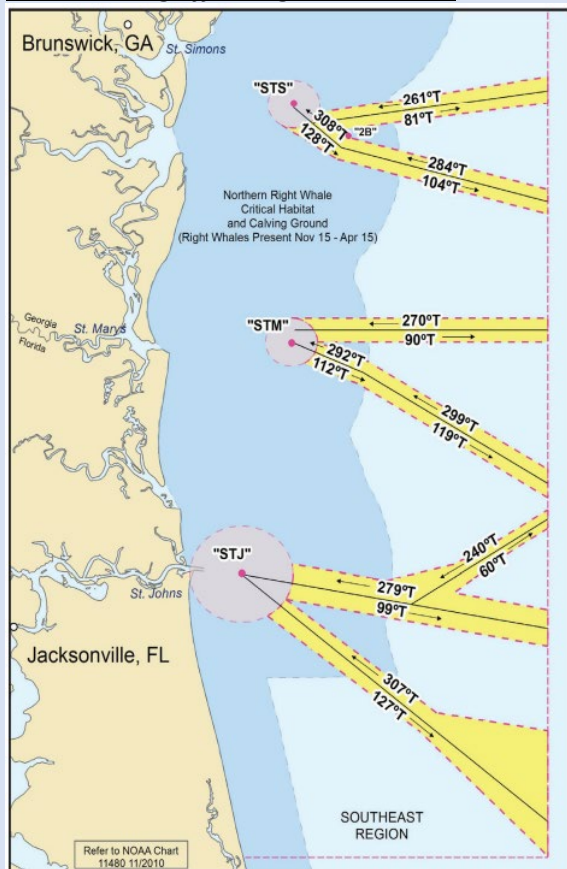
Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

The area (NAD 83) extends from the shoreline eastward to longitude 80°51.6'W with the southern and northern boundaries at latitude 30°00'N and 31°27'N., respectively.

1.3.2.2 Voluntary:

- Vessel routing off Georgia and Florida (annually – November to April)

Vessel routing off Georgia and Florida

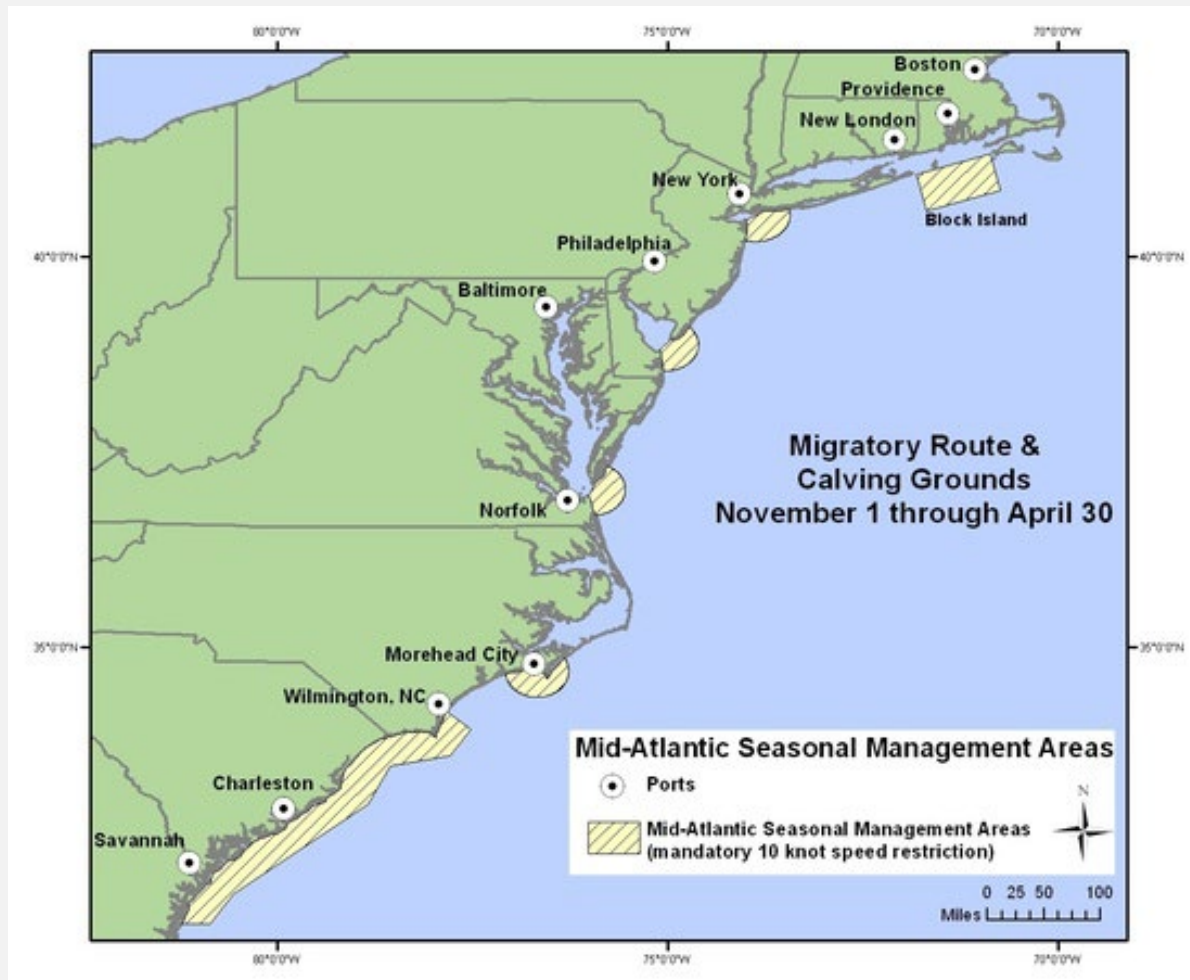


Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

For navigation, refer to the current version of NOAA Chart 11480.

The area shaded in blue is a calving area of North Atlantic right whales November 15 through April 15. This area encompasses the northern portion of the designated critical habitat for the whales (see 50 CFR 226.203(c)). The red dashed line extending East from Florida coastline, then North parallel to shore is the Mandatory Ship Reporting boundary line.

1.3.3 Mid-Atlantic U.S.



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Fisheries](#)

1.3.3.1 Mandatory:

- ≤10 knots speed restriction in Seasonal Management Areas with migratory routes and calving grounds (annually – 1 November to 30 April)

Block Island Sound waters bounded by:
 40°51'53.7" N 070°36'44.9" W
 41°20'14.1" N 070°49'44.1" W
 41°04'16.7" N 071°51'21.0" W
 40°35'56.5" N 071°38'25.1" W then back to starting point.

Within a 20-nm (37 km) radius of the following (as measured seaward from the COLREGS lines):

-Ports of New York/New Jersey:
 40°29'42.2"N 073°55'57.6"W

-Entrance to the Delaware Bay
 (Ports of Philadelphia and Wilmington):
 38°52'27.4"N 075°01'32.1"W

-Entrance to the Chesapeake Bay
 (Ports of Hampton Roads and Baltimore):
 37°00'36.9"N 075°57'50.5"W

-Ports of Morehead City and Beaufort, NC:
 34°41'32.0"N 076°40'08.3"W

Within a continuous area 20-nm from shore between Wilmington, North Carolina, to Brunswick, Georgia, bounded by the following:

A- 34°10'30"N, 077°49'12"W

B- 33°56'42"N, 077°31'30"W

C- 33°36'30"N, 077°47'06"W

D- 33°28'24"N, 078°32'30"W

E- 32°59'06"N, 078°50'18"W

F- 31°50'00"N, 080°33'12"W

G- 31°27'00"N, 080°51'36"W

and west back to the shore.

1.3.4 Right Whale Slow Zones & Dynamic Management Areas

1.3.4.1 Voluntary:

- ATBA or ≤10 knots speed recommendation (activated by NOAA on an ad hoc basis – based on visual sightings of three or more right whales within a discrete area or based on acoustic triggers)

See the “Current Right Whale Slow Zones/DMA’s” section at [NOAA’s webpage](#).



References / Resources:

- [NOAA webpage - Reducing Vessel Strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales](#)
- Sign up for [emailers / text notifications](#) about the latest Right Whale Slow Zones
- Follow NOAA on Facebook (@NOAAFisheriesNEMA) and Twitter (@NOAAFish_GARFO) for announcements
- Check for Right Whale Slow Zones/[dmaS](#) on NOAA’s [online right whale sightings map](#)
- Download the free [Whale Alert app](#), which will automatically notify you when you enter one of these areas

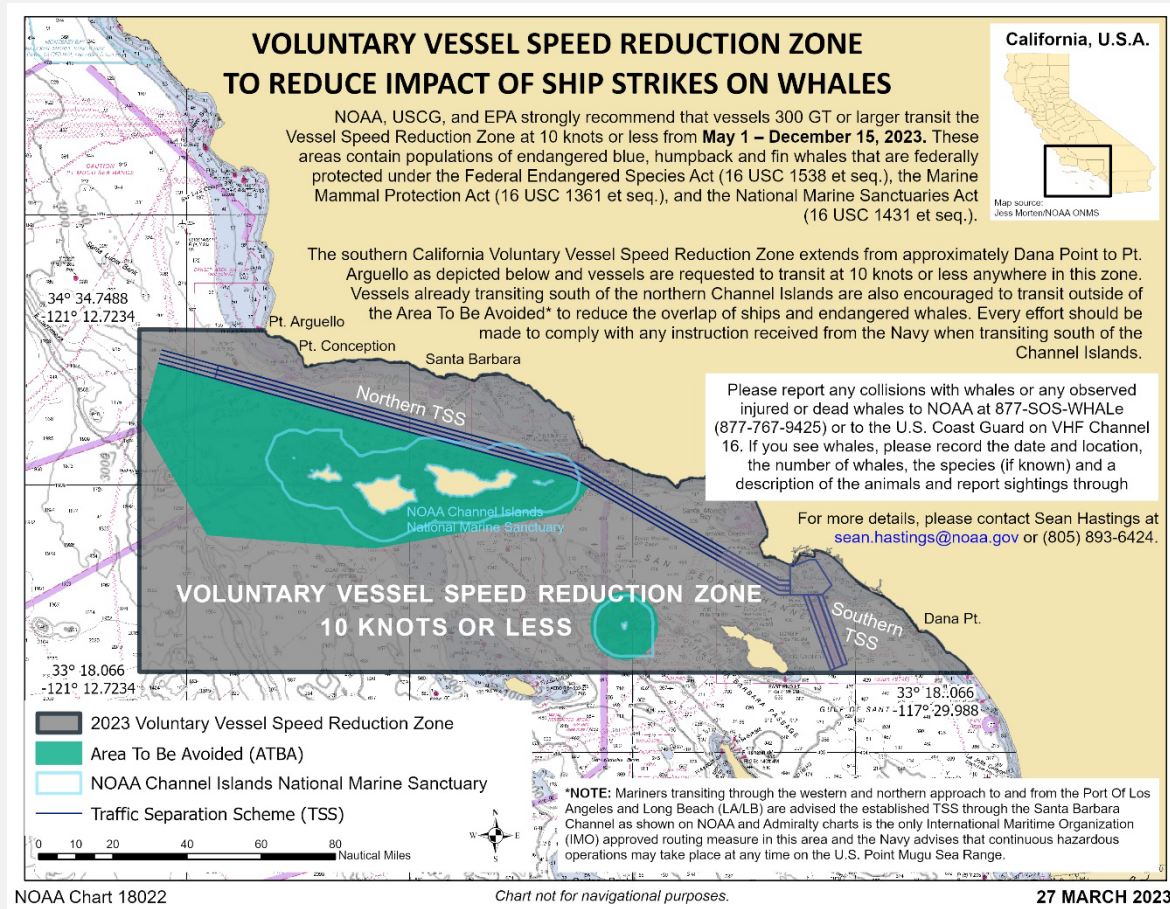


Report a vessel strike to NOAA

Report vessel strikes to the [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#).

1.4 North America: United States (West Coast)

1.4.1 Southern California Region



Source: [NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#)

1.4.1.1 Mandatory:

- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary ATBA (year-long)
- TSS (year-long)

In order to avoid risk of pollution in the area designated as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, all ships, except those bound to and from ports on one of the islands within the area, engaged in the trade of carrying cargo, including but not limited to tankers and other bulk carriers and barges, should avoid the following areas:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary ATBA

(a) In the region of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands off the coast of southern California

33°58'.7 N, 119°12'.8 W
 33°54'.0 N, 119°17'.0 W
 33°46'.3 N, 120°07'.8 W
 33°59'.0 N, 120°39'.5 W

(b) In the region of the Santa Barbara Island off the coast of southern California The area contained within a circle of radius 7.5 nautical miles, centred on the following geographical position, is designated as an area to be avoided:

33°28'.6 N, 119°02'.2 W

34°10'.4 N, 120°39'.5 W
 34°14'.0 N, 120°31'.3 W
 34°10'.0 N, 119°56'.4 W
 34°01'.4 N, 119°18'.6 W

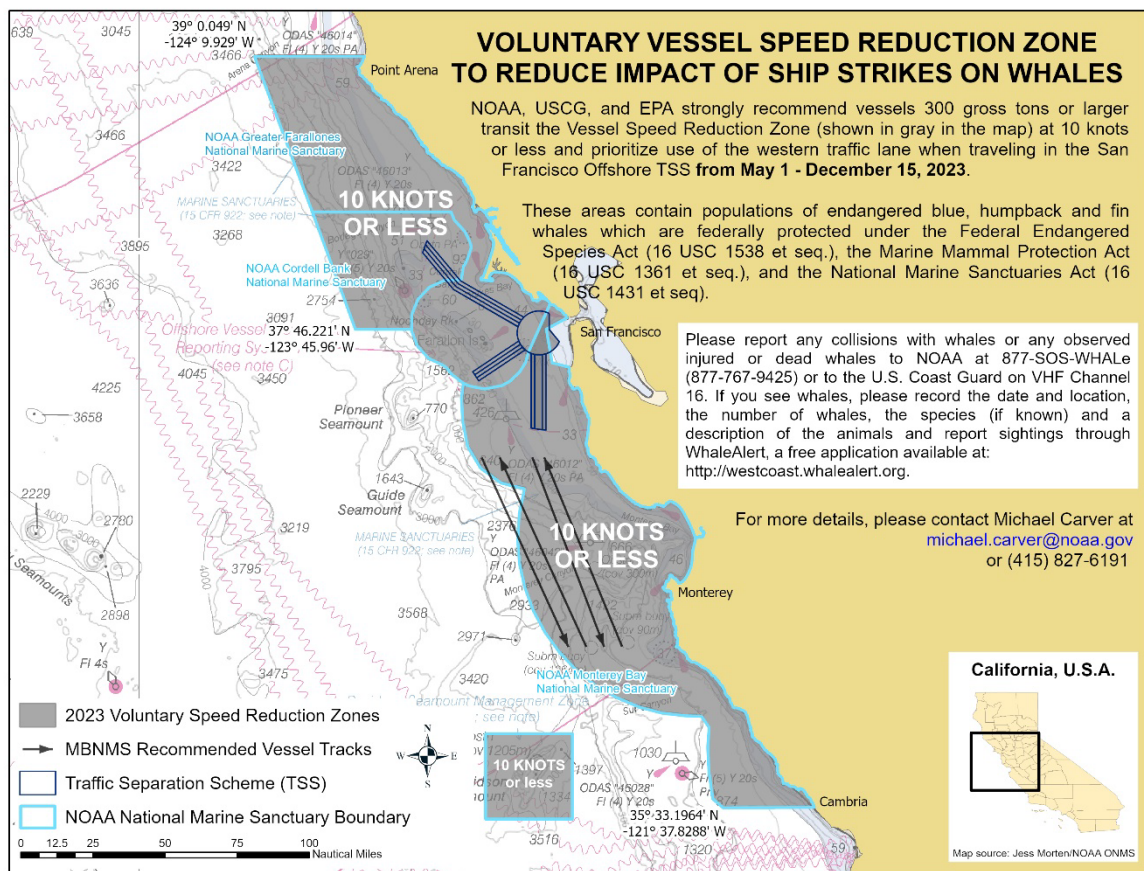
1.4.1.2 Voluntary:

- ≤10 knots speed recommendation in the Southern California Vessel Speed Reduction zone (annually – 1 May to 15 December; see NOAA chart above as listed in the USCG District 11 Local Notice to Mariners; see also [Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies incentive-based VSR program](#))
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary extended ATBA (year-long)

Southern California Region Vessel Speed Reduction zone
 34° 34.43' N, 121° 01.796' W
 33° 18.066' N, 121° 01.796' W
 33° 18.066' N, 117° 29.988' W

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary voluntary expanded ATBA
 34° 26.01' N, 121° 01.796' W
 33° 49.11' N, 121° 01.796' W

1.4.2 San Francisco and Monterey Bay Regions



NOAA Chart 501

This map is not to be used for navigational purposes

20 APRIL 2023

Source: [NOAA Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries](#)

1.4.2.1 Mandatory:

- TSS (year-long)

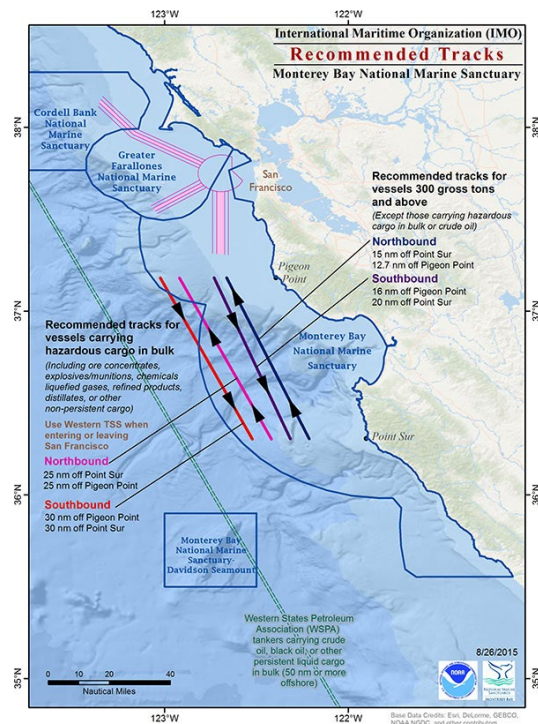
1.4.2.2 Voluntary:

- ≤10 knots speed recommendation in the San Francisco Bay Region Vessel Speed Reduction zone (annually – 1 May to 15 December; see also Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies incentive-based VSR program)
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary vessel routing (year-long)

San Francisco and Monterey Bay Region Vessel Speed Reduction zones

39° 0.049' N, -124° 19.929' W
 37° 46.221' N, -123° 45.196' W
 37° 19.48' N, -122° 44.43' W
 37° 18.6' N, -122° 39.2' W
 35° 33.196' N, -121° 37.829' W

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary vessel routing



References / Resources:

- [Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary webpage](#)
- [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary webpage](#)
- [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary webpage](#)
- [Blue Whale and Blue Skies program webpage](#)
- [USCG District 11 Local Notice to Mariners](#)
- [Port of LA/LB Vessel Speed Reduction Program Section Twenty, Item No. 2045](#)
- Download the free [Whale Alert app](#), which will automatically notify you when you enter one of these areas
- Contact Sean Hastings, (+1) 805-705-1790, sean.hastings@noaa.gov



Report whale sightings and vessel strikes

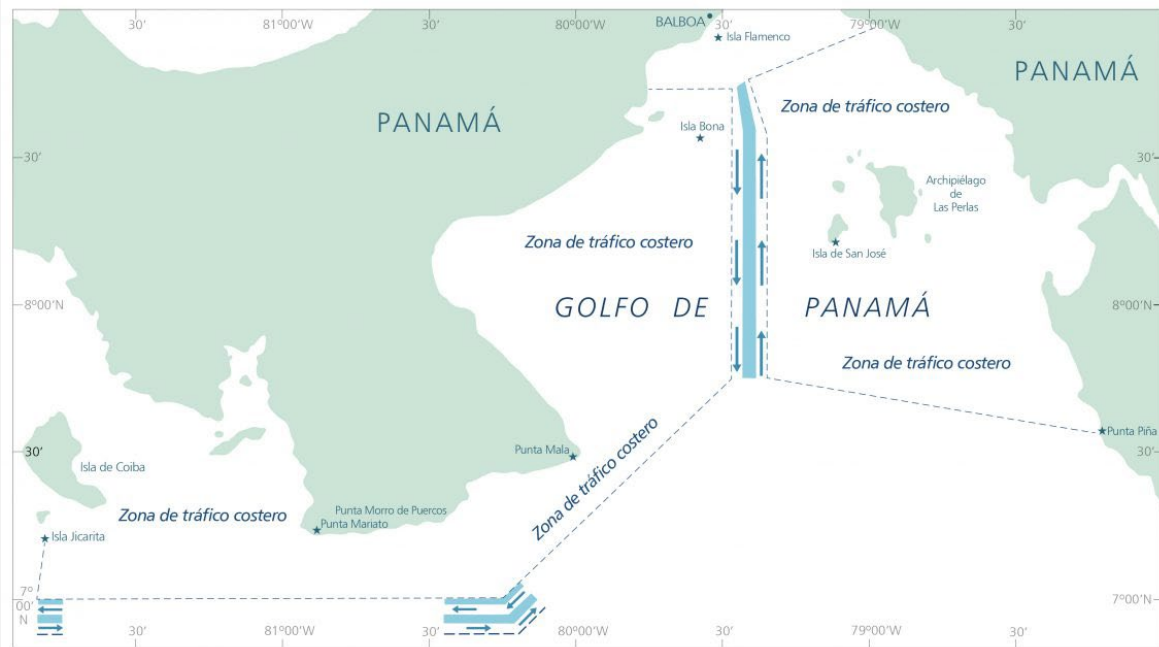
Please report any collisions with whales or any observed injured or dead whales to NOAA at (+1) 877-SOS-WHALE (877-767-9425) or to the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16.

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://westcoastwhalealert.org>.

2. Central & South America

2.1 Panama

2.1.1 Gulf of Panama



Source: [Panama Canal Authority](#)

2.1.1.1 Voluntary:

- ≤10 knots speed recommendation in TSS (annually – 1 August to 30 November)

In order to help reduce the risk of lethal strikes with cetaceans, it is recommended that, as far as it is safe and practical to do so, ships should proceed at a speed of not more than 10 knots from 1 August to 30 November every year. This recommendation applies to both traffic lanes of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Gulf of Panama, north of latitude 08°00'.00 N. (Source: IMO COLREG.2/Circ.65)

Traffic Separation Scheme in the Gulf of Panama

(a) A separation zone bounded by a line connecting the following geographical positions:

- (4) 08°44'.70 N, 079°27'.00 W
- (5) 08°35'.00 N, 079°26'.00 W
- (6) 07°45'.00 N, 079°26'.00 W
- (7) 07°45'.00 N, 079°23'.00 W
- (8) 08°35'.00 N, 079°23'.00 W
- (9) 08°45'.42 N, 079°25'.44 W

The separation zone is approximately three miles wide in the south and narrowing in the north.

(b) A southbound traffic lane between the separation zone and a separation line connecting the geographical positions 1, 2 and 3:

- (1) 07°45'00 N, 079°28'20 W
(2) 08°35'00 N, 079°28'20 W
(3) 08°44'00 N, 079°28'00 W

The southbound traffic lane is approximately one mile wide at the northern limit and two miles wide in the south.

(c) A northbound traffic lane between the separation zone and a separation line connecting the geographical positions 10, 11 and 12:

- (10) 08°46'00 N, 079°24'62 W
(11) 08°35'00 N, 079°21'00 W
(12) 07°45'00 N, 079°21'00 W

The northbound traffic lane is approximately two miles wide in the south and one mile wide at the northern limit.



References / Resources:

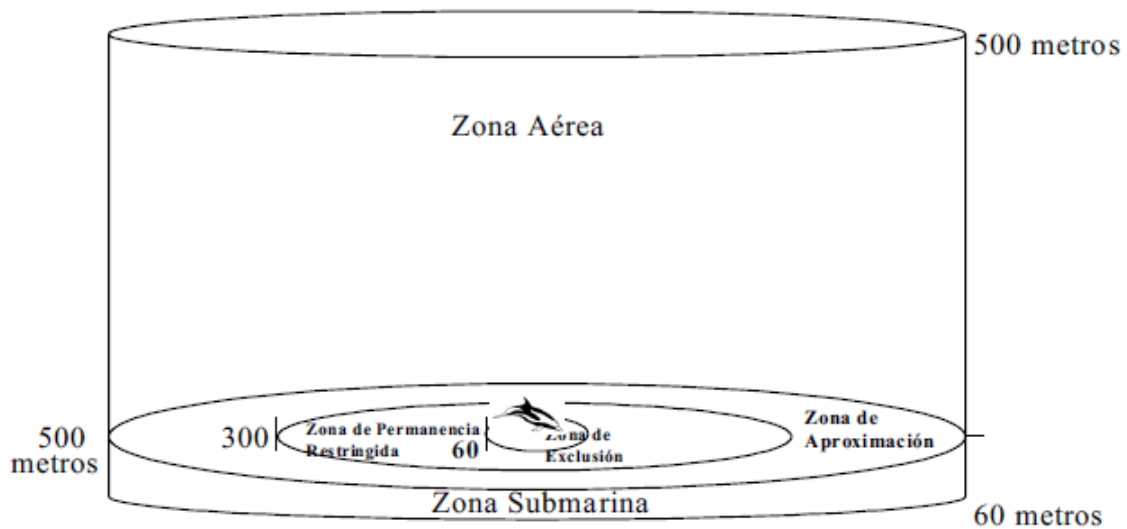
- [Panama Canal Authority Advisory to Shipping No. A-31-2019](#)
- [Panama Maritime Authority Merchant Circular MMC-304](#)
- [Panama Canal Authority webpage](#)
- Recommendations on navigation for the new traffic separation scheme "On the Pacific coast of Panama" (Part 1 "Gulf of Panama") in IMO Circular SN.1/Circ. 326
- Annex 1 Part 1 "Gulf of Panama" in IMO COLREG.2/Circ.65

3. Europe

3.1 Spain

3.1.1 Spanish waters subject to sovereignty, sovereign rights or Spanish jurisdiction, which include internal waters, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the exclusive economic zone

ESPACIO MÓVIL DE PROTECCIÓN DE CETÁCEOS



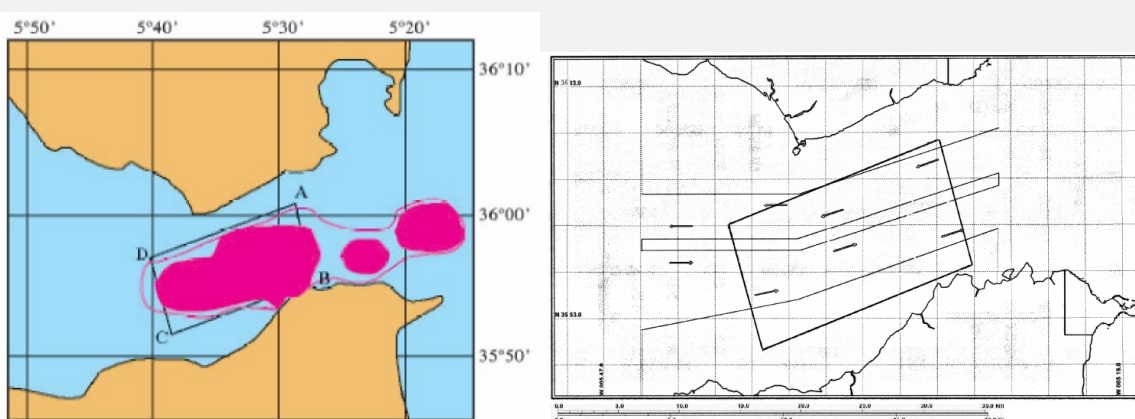
Source: ROYAL DECREE 1727/2007, of December 21, establishing protection measures for cetaceans.

3.1.1.1 Mandatory:

- Any conduct that may cause death, damage, discomfort or concern to cetaceans must be avoided in the Mobile Space for the Protection of Cetaceans
- If during the performance of any activity in the Mobile Space for the Protection of Cetaceans, any sign of alarm, discomfort or alteration in the behavior of a cetacean or a group of them is observed, such as sudden changes of direction or speed, jumps before the repeated approach, flight or departure, said Space must be abandoned in the shortest possible time, trying to avoid further inconvenience to the animals during the removal maneuvers.
- Mobile Space for the Protection of Cetaceans: that whose perimeter is the contour of the surface of an imaginary cylinder that encompasses the marine and air spaces in a radius of 500 meters, with a height of 500 meters in the air space and a depth of 60 meters in the underwater space, included from a cetacean or group of cetaceans:
 - 1st Exclusion Zone, which will have a radius of not less than 60 meters measured at the surface of the water from the cetacean or group of cetaceans.
 - 2nd Restricted Permanence Zone, which includes the area between the limit of the Exclusion Zone (60 m) and the limit of the Approach Zone (300 m).

- 3rd Approach Zone, which includes the surface between 300 meters from the limit of the Restricted Permanence Zone and 500 meters from the outer contour of the Mobile Space for the Protection of Cetaceans.
- 4th Air Zone, which includes the airspace zone within the 500 meter radius of the imaginary cylinder vertically, and horizontally, from the cetacean or group of cetaceans.
- cylinder vertically, and horizontally, from the cetacean or group of cetaceans.
- 5th Submarine Zone, which includes the zone of underwater space within a 500-meter radius of the imaginary horizontal cylinder and 60 meters in depth from the cetacean or group of cetaceans.

3.1.2 Strait of Gibraltar



Source: Ministerio de fomento / D.G. de la Marina Mercante 04-01-07

3.1.2.1 Voluntary:

- ≤13 knots speed recommendation
- Navigate with maximum vigilance

Critical area for cetaceans in the Strait of Gibraltar

36°00,6'N 5°28,8'W

35°55,2'N 5°27,0'W

35°51,6'N 5°38,4'W

35°57,0'N 5°40,2'W

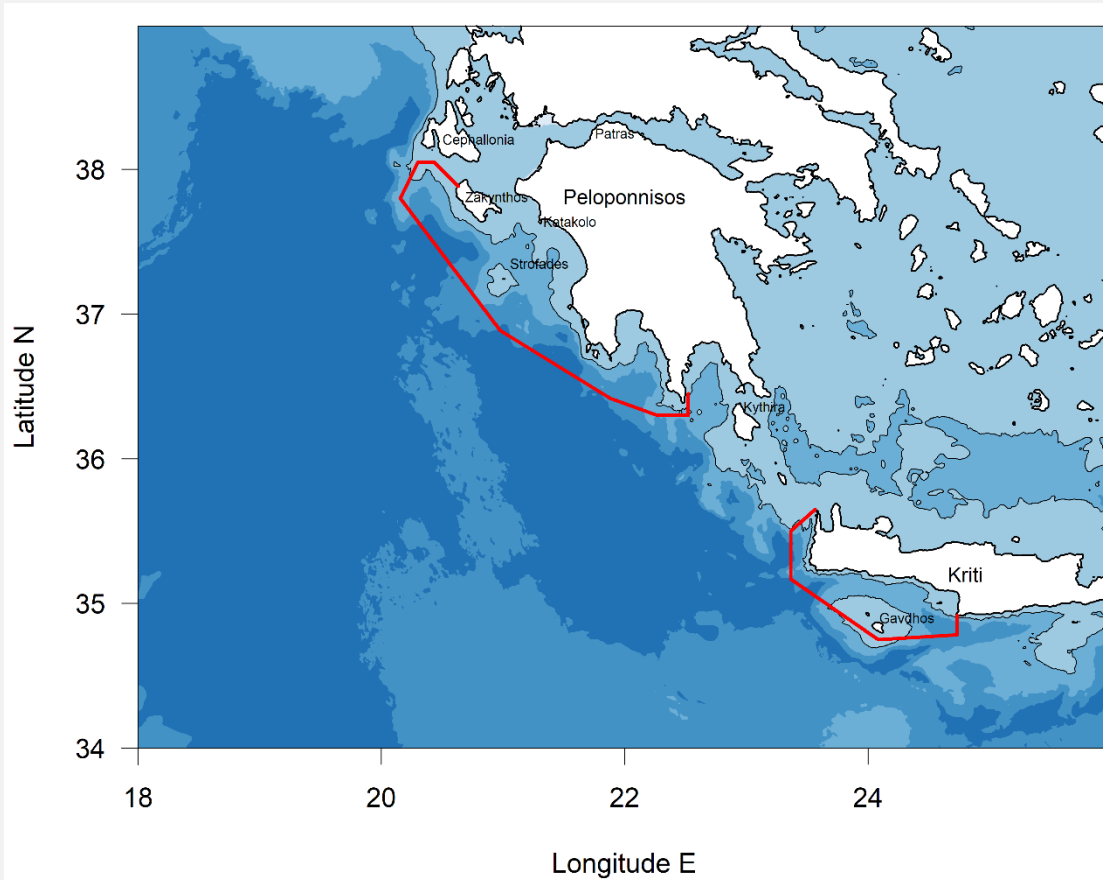


References / Resources:

- ROYAL DECREE 1727/2007, of December 21, establishing protection measures for cetaceans
- Ministerio de fomento / D.G. de la Marina Mercante 04-01-07
- MEPC 57/INF.15

3.2 Greece

3.2.1 Hellenic Trench



Source: R.Leaper using data from GEBCO_2020 Grid doi:10.5285/f98b053b-0cbc-6c23-e053-6c86abc0af7b

3.2.1.1 Voluntary:

- Intensify look out and avoid collisions with marine mammals (year-long)

PILOT A' (1ST EDITION 2015) -
MEDITERRANEAN SEA - HELLÁS - Íónio Sea
(Hellenic Trench) - West Coasts of Zákynthos
Island, Pelopónnisos - Area of Frequent
Presence Marine Mammals.

Paragraph 1.8 line R 51 Insert:

«Area of Frequent Presence of Marine Mammals is located in the sea area of the Southern Íónio Sea (Hellenic Trench). To protect them from passing ships, mariners are requested to intensify their lookout to detect and avoid collisions with marine mammals, which usually lead to fatal injuries. The area is

PILOT VOLUME B' (E' EDITION 2019) -
MEDITERRANEAN SEA - HELLÁS - Kríti Island -
Southwest, West Coasts of Kríti Island -
(Hellenic Trench) - Area of Frequent Presence
Marine Mammals.

A 16 Insert:

«Area of Frequent Presence of Marine Mammals is located in the sea area of the Southwest, West Coasts of Kríti Island - (Hellenic Trench). To protect them from passing ships, mariners are requested to intensify their lookout to detect and avoid collisions with marine mammals, which usually

delimited inside the imaginary line which joins the following points and the opposite coastline starting from a point of the NW coast of Zákynthos island (37° 53,0' N - 020° 38,0' E), extends up to 5, 8, and approximately 23 n. miles, S, SW and SSW of the rocky islet Vardiánoi (southwest coast of Kefallinia island), at the points (38° 03,0' N - 020° 26,0' E), (38° 03,0' N - 020° 18,0' E) & (37° 48,0' N - 020° 09,4' E) respectively. Then it extends up to about 22 n. miles, S of Strofádes islands, at the point (36° 53,2' N - 020° 58,6' E) and up to about 17 n. miles, S of Venétiko islet (SW border of Messiniakós gulf (36° 25,0' N - 021° 53,0' E). It then extends to about 12, 5, and 5 n. miles, SW, SSE, and NW of the Tainaro point, at the corresponding points (36° 18,0' N - 022° 16,2' E), (36° 18,0' N - 022° 31,5' E) & (36° 27,0' N - 022° 31,5' E).»

(Source: Hellenic Notice to Mariners No. 24/2021)

lead to fatal injuries. The area is delimited inside the imaginary line which joins the following points and the opposite coastline starting from a point at cape Litinos of Messaras gulf (southern limit of Kriti island) at the point (34° 55,0' N - 024° 44,0' E), extends up to approximately 8 n. miles, S of the above cape, to the point (34° 47,0' N - 024° 44,0' E). Then it extends up to about 4 n. miles, SSW of cape Trypiti (Gavdos island), at the point (34° 45,0' N - 024° 05,0' E) and up to about 9 n. miles, SW of Elaфонισσος Islet (southwest coasts of Kriti island) at the point (35° 10,0' N - 023° 22,0' E). It then extends to about 14, and 0,5 n. miles, SW and NW of Agria Gramvousa (northwest coasts of Kriti island), at the corresponding points (35° 30,0' N - 023° 22,0' E), (35° 39,0' N - 023° 34,0' E)."

(Source: Hellenic Notice to Mariners No. 27/2021)

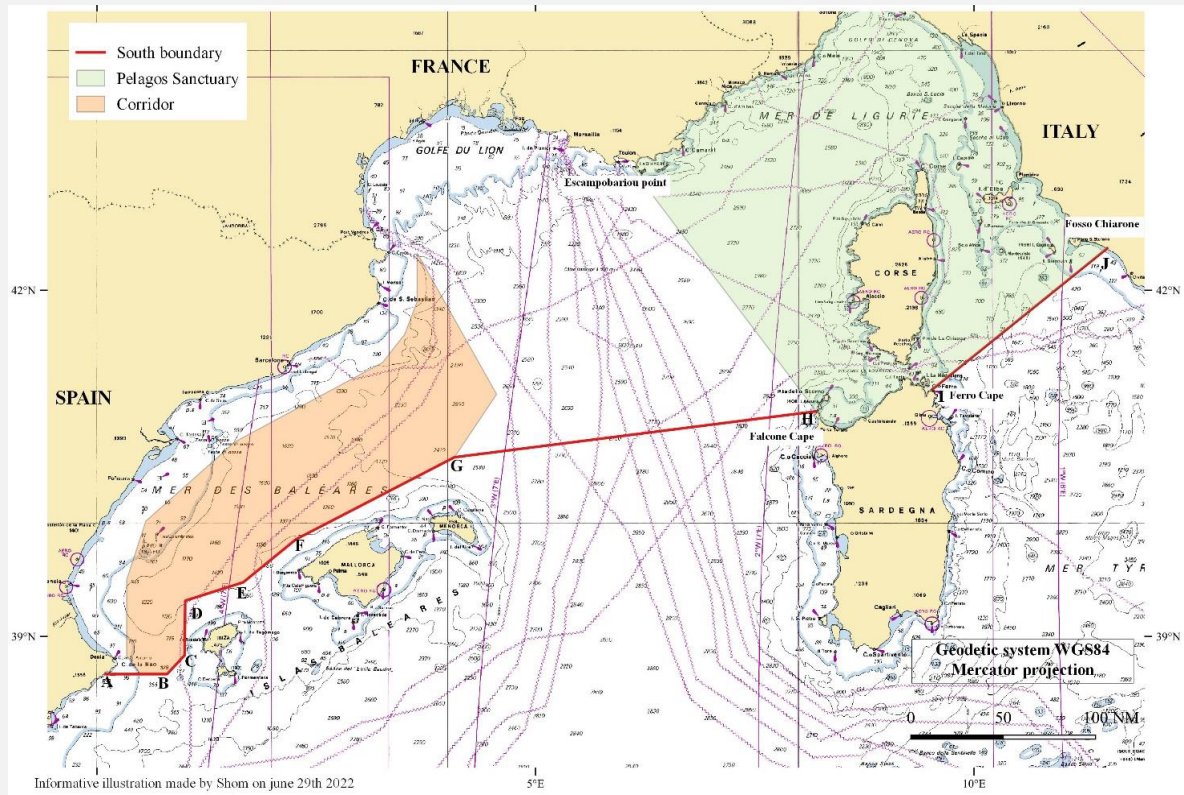


References / Resources:

- [Hellenic Notices to Mariners No. 24/2021 & 27/2021](#)
- [Whale Guardians Recommended Routing Guidelines for Hellenic Trench, Greece](#)

3.3 Mediterranean Sea

3.3.1 North-Western Mediterranean Sea PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Area)



Source: Resolution MEPC.380(80)

3.3.1.1 Voluntary:

- Navigate with particular caution in areas where large and medium cetaceans are detected or reported
- Reduce speed to between 10 and 13 knots as voluntary speed reduction (VSR)
- Keep an appropriate safety distance or speed reduction measure from any large and medium cetaceans observed or detected in close quarter situation
- Broadcast on VHF or other available means on scene, the position of medium and large cetaceans observed or detected, and transmit the information and the position to a designated coastal Authority
- Report any collision with cetaceans to a designated coastal Authority

NW Med PSSA is located between the coastline of France, Italy, Monaco and Spain and is defined by a line encompassing the following coordinates:

A 38° 39' 59.379" N 000° 6' 0.000" E
 B 38° 39' 59.379" N 000° 47' 59.476" E
 C 38° 50' 03.331" N 001° 00' 00.398" E
 D 39° 19' 01.812" N 001° 00' 25.212" E
 E 39° 28' 42.075" N 001° 40' 02.495" E
 F 39° 51' 21.986" N 002° 16' 09.853" E
 G 40° 34' 13.067" N 004° 04' 31.926" E
 H 40° 58' 0.000" N 008° 12' 0.000" E

I 41° 09' 10.800" N 009° 31' 10.800" E
J 42° 21' 14.400" N 011° 31' 0.000" E

To be noted, from H (Falcoe Cape) to I (Ferro Cape) the south boundary follows the coastline of Sardinia. Coordinates are provided by the WGS84 datum.



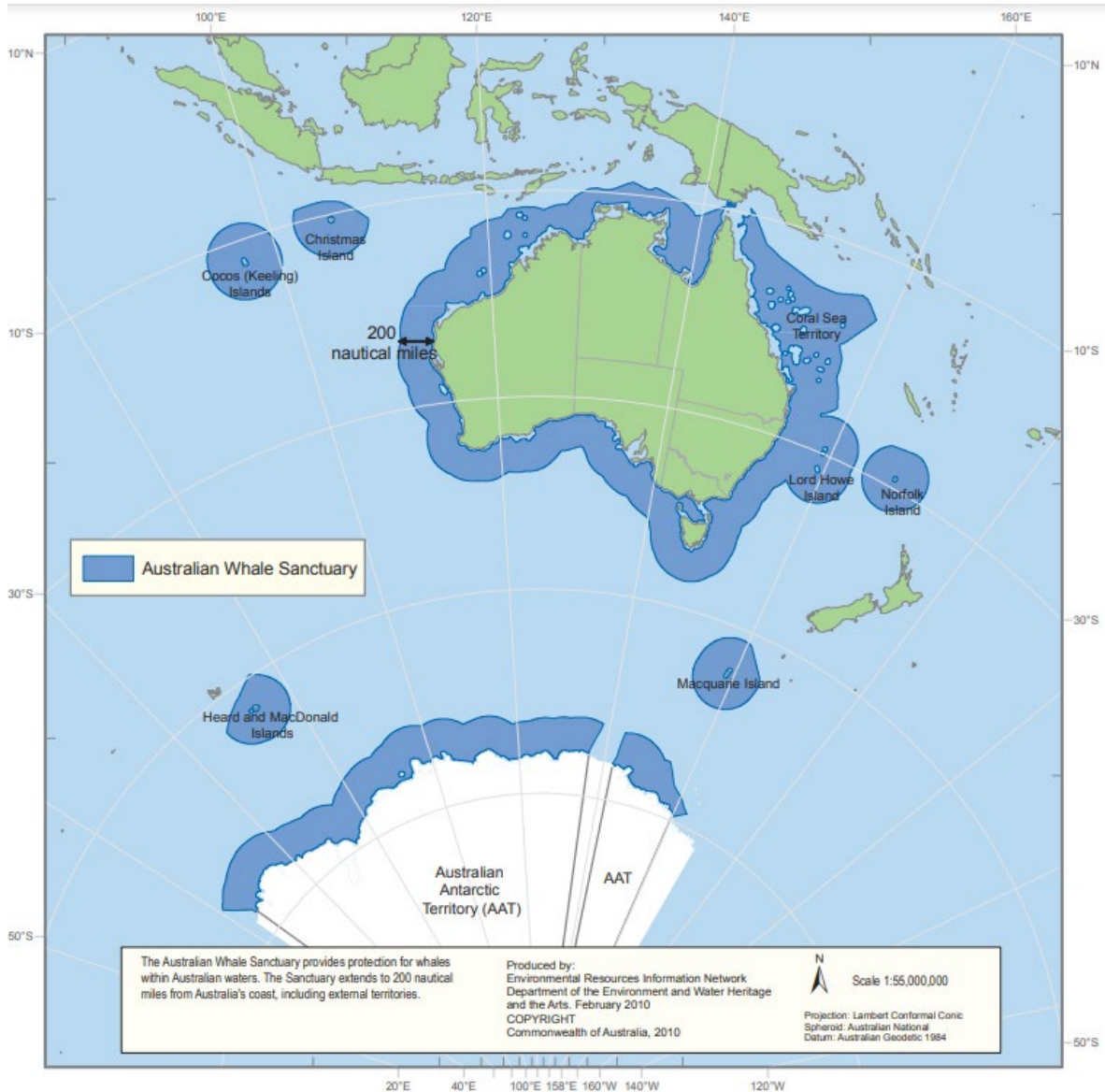
References / Resources:

- Resolution MEPC.380(80) on Designation of the North-Western Mediterranean Sea as a particularly sensitive sea area (adopted at IMO's MEPC 80 on 7 July 2023)

4. Australia & New Zealand

4.1 Australia

4.1.1 Australian Whale Sanctuary



Source: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

4.1.1.1 Mandatory:

- Notification of activities affecting cetaceans to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

4.1.1.2 Voluntary:

- Maintain a look out for cetaceans
- Warn other vessels in the vicinity using all appropriate means of communication, if cetaceans have been sighted
- Consider reducing vessel speed in areas where cetaceans have been sighted
- Consider modest course alterations away from sightings



References / Resources:

- [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water webpage](#)
- [Map of the Australian Whale Sanctuary](#)



Notification of activities affecting cetaceans in or beyond the Australian Whale Sanctuary

The Secretary: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Hotline: 1800 803 772

Email: protected.species@environment.gov.au

4.2 New Zealand

4.2.1 Hauraki Gulf



Source: [Port of Auckland](#)

4.2.1.1 Voluntary:

- ≤10 knots speed recommendation
- Recommended vessel routing
- Post whale lookouts during daylight hours
- If a whale is sighted forward of the beam, slow down and/or change course to keep as far from the whales as possible. Whenever safe to do so, no vessel should pass closer than 1,000 meters from a whale.
- Report whale sightings to Ports of Auckland Harbour Control



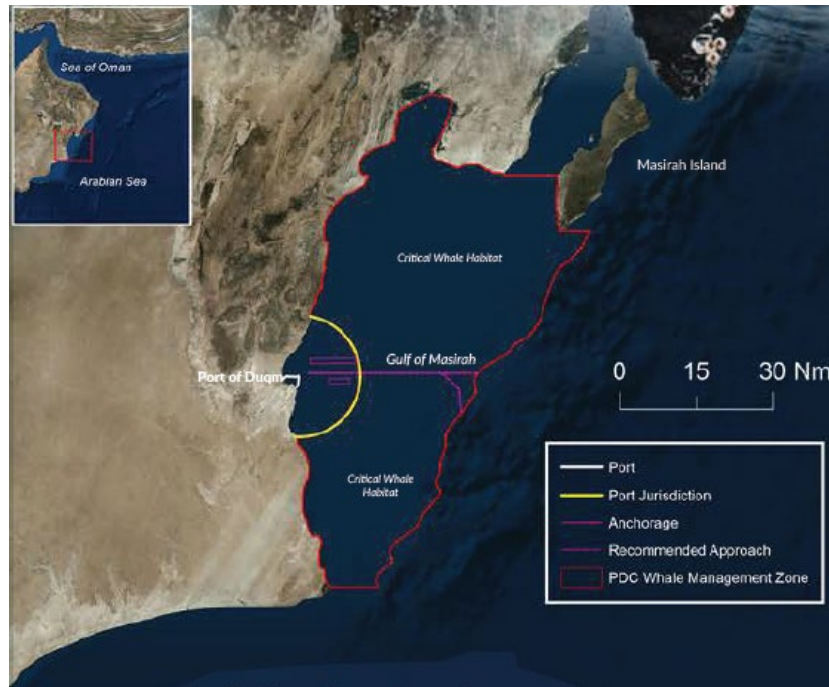
References / Resources:

- [Port of Auckland Hauraki Gulf Transit Protocol for Commercial Shipping](#)
- [New Zealand Annual Notices to Mariners 2022/2023, Section 10: Shipping routes around the New Zealand coast](#)
- [Auckland \(Waitemata\) Port Information Handbook \(December 2022 – Version 3\)](#)

5. Asia & Middle East

5.1 Oman

5.1.1 Port of Duqm



Source: Port of Duqm

5.1.1.1 Mandatory:

- ≤10 knots speed restrictions
- Keep a continuous watch
- Report sightings to VHF Ch14
- Avoid whales (1km for vessels <300 Gt; 2km for vessels >300 Gt)

5.1.1.2 Voluntary:

- Recommended approach

Port of Duqm recommended approach

19° 42.481' N 057° 49.998' E

19° 42.788' N 058° 21.976' E

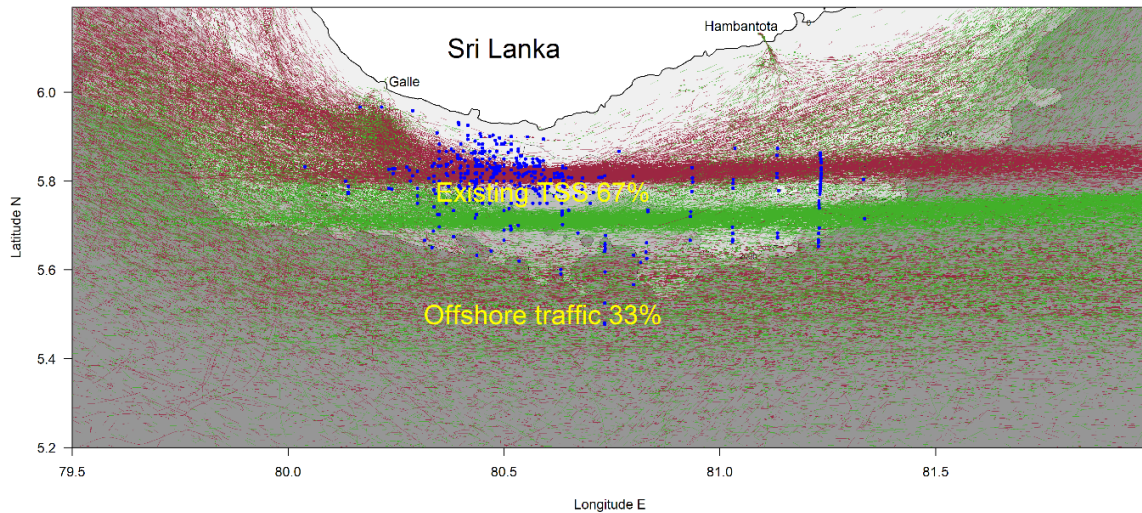


References / Resources:

- [Port of Duqm advisory](#)
- [Port of Duqm HSSE manager contact](#)

5.2 Sri Lanka

5.2.1 South of Dondra Head



Source: MEPC 80/16/3. AIS data from October 2022 to January 2023. Red lines indicate westbound traffic and green lines indicate eastbound traffic. Blue dots indicate sightings of blue whales from surveys and whale watching.

5.2.1.1: Voluntary:

The Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) south of Dondra Head, Sri Lanka was created in 1980 (IMO Ships' Routing – Section IV/16). The existing TSS south of Dondra Head is now known to overlie an area that is a major feeding area for a significant population of Blue Whales and other marine species that inhabit these waters. The natural upwelling that occurs in this area attracts not only these cetaceans, but also numerous small fishing and whale watching boats. Numerous organizations including the World Shipping Council have called on Sri Lanka and other governments to establish a new second TSS roughly 15 nm south of the existing TSS, to mitigate the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans as well as the risk of collision with the numerous small boats operating and congregating in and around the existing TSS.

No action has been taken to date by the Sri Lankan Government or other governments to create a new TSS further offshore, but numerous masters and shipping companies now sail 15 nm miles or further south of the existing TSS to avoid the relevant environmental and safety risks. AIS data in early 2023 indicates that one third of the East-West commercial traffic now sails roughly 15 nm south of the existing TSS. The same data also indicates that roughly 50% of the largest vessels now sail 15nm or further south.



References / Resources:

- Document MEPC 80/16/3 “Call for establishment of a new traffic separation scheme south of Sri Lanka”

Contact WSC

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About World Shipping Council

The World Shipping Council is the united voice of liner shipping, working with policymakers and industry groups to shape the future growth of a socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, safe, and secure shipping industry. We are a non-profit trade association with offices in Brussels, London, Singapore and Washington, D.C. Read more at www.worldshipping.org