

QUIET SOUND

Admiralty Inlet 2022 trial voluntary ship slowdown

A collaborative effort to reduce underwater noise for endangered whales

Admiralty Inlet and Puget Sound are critical habitat for the endangered southern resident killer whales. During the fall and winter, these killer whales swim, rest and forage for salmon in these waters. Underwater noise is identified by Canada and the United States as one of the main threats to killer whales due to its interference with their ability to hunt, navigate, and communicate.

The [Quiet Sound program](#) was created with the goal of reducing the acoustic impacts of large commercial vessels on these endangered whales in Washington. To do this, a coalition of federal, state, tribal, port, maritime industry, scientist, and NGO representatives developed this [trial voluntary slowdown](#) in Admiralty Inlet and north Puget Sound. During the trial slowdown, large commercial vessels are encouraged to slow down when safe and operationally feasible to do so. **By slowing down, large vessels reduce their underwater noise output. Quieter waters give orcas better opportunities to hunt and communicate with their pod.**

Slowdown parameters for 2022

Dates: October 24, 2022-January 12, 2023

This trial slowdown has fixed start and end dates and will span just over two months.

Location: Admiralty Inlet and north Puget Sound

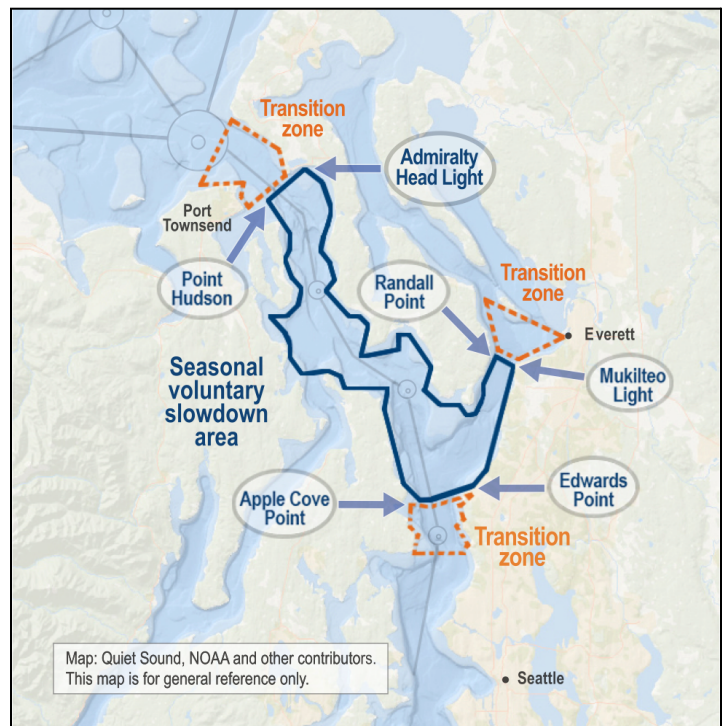
For a full size map of the slowdown area click [here](#).

Speed:

When it is safe and operationally feasible, ships are encouraged to transit the slowdown area at or below the following speeds through water:

14.5 knots - speed through water or less for **vehicle carriers, cruise ships, and container vessels**

11.0 knots - speed through water or less for **bulkers and tankers**



Estimated transit time impacts:

Transiting through the slowdown area at the reduced speed could add 10 to 20 minutes to the total transit time, depending on the vessel type and water currents.

Ship type	Estimated average additional transit time
Bulkers	16 minutes
Container Vessels	20 minutes
Cruise Ships	11 minutes
Tankers	10 minutes
Vehicle Carriers	18 minutes

Benefits to Participants

Fleets with high rates of participation are eligible for documentation to meet a criterion in the Underwater Noise performance indicator for their [Green Marine](#) certification

Watch for Whales

Endangered whales can be found outside this slowdown area and in the area beyond the dates of the slowdown. Quiet Sound encourages mariners to sign up for the WhaleReport Alert System to receive text alerts when you are within 10 nm of a verified whale sighting. If you belong to a professional marine organization and are a pilot or member of the bridge crew of a ship, please contact the WRAS Project Manager at WRAS@ocean.org to request access to the WhaleReport Alert System.

Quiet Sound gratefully acknowledges all the partners who are working to provide Washington mariners with real-time whale locations, including: [Ocean Wise](#), [Orca Network](#), [Acartia](#), [Conserve.io](#), and all the members of the public who report sightings.

Goals, monitoring and reporting:

Our goals for this inaugural, trial slowdown are:

- To provide a proof-of-concept for a seasonal slowdown in Washington and lay the groundwork for improving the conservation benefit of voluntary changes to vessel operations over time
- To develop effective communications with mariners

- Reach 100% of pilots with educational outreach on the slowdown and WRAS
- Collect data on WRAS whale location alerts served and pilot response to those alerts
- See a promising level of vessel participation rates
 - Measure 50% of transits by the targeted vessels participating in the slowdown as seen in AIS or by pilot feedback
- Collect baseline data on sound levels when SRKW are present in Puget Sound without interventions and with a slowdown intervention
- Begin to develop baseline data on what vessels contribute noise to SRKW

Quiet Sound will monitor multiple elements to determine the success of the trial slowdown:

- Underwater noise levels will be monitored during and after the slowdown period.
- Whale presence will be recorded and reported out to mariners in real time through the [WhaleReport Alert System](#).
- AIS data and pilot feedback will be used to track vessel participation.

During the slowdown, periodic newsletters will go out via email with updates on the program. After the slowdown ends, all of the data will be analyzed for a final report on the results of the trial slowdown area.

How can the public help this initiative?

Members of the public can help commercial mariners avoid whales by reporting whale sightings through:

- Orca Network, www.orcanetwork.org/report-sightings
- The WhaleReport app (available on Apple or Google devices)
- The Whale Alert app (available on Apple or Google devices)

For more information:

- Learn more about Quiet Sound: quietsound.org
- Learn more about the trial slowdown area: quietsound.org/trial-slowdown
- Sign up for the Quiet Sound slowdown newsletter [here](#)
- If you belong to a professional marine organization and are a pilot or member of the bridge crew of a ship, please contact the WRAS Project Manager at WRAS@ocean.org to request access to the WhaleReport Alert System.
- Questions? Contact us at info@quietsound.org. Pilots with questions about the slowdown can text or call Quiet Sound at (360) 218-2307 from 8 am to 5 pm.
- Learn more about concurrent slowdowns for whale protection in Canadian waters on the [ECHO](#) site

Acknowledgements:

Quiet Sound recognizes the essential contributions of the [Leadership Committee and working groups](#) who provided input on this first trial slowdown. We also thank the [ECHO](#) program for their mentorship in setting up a voluntary slowdown zone. [Puget Sound Pilots](#) are playing a pivotal role in the on-water success of this effort. The [Marine Exchange of Puget Sound](#) is providing AIS data, and the Marine Exchange and [Pacific Merchant Shipping Association](#) have been key partners in communicating the slowdown to the maritime industry.

We thank all the tribal governments who considered our proposal to put forward this program for vessels traveling through their usual and accustomed fishing areas.

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