



## Quiet Sound Leadership Committee Meeting Summary

April 23, 2024

Meeting notes v. 5/21/24

## Action Items & Decisions

Action Items	Who	Status
Share PMSA's recently completed analysis of volume and type of ship traffic.	Mike Moore	
Share the marine mammal impact analysis and mitigation plan for the proposed foil ferry when it is published by Kitsap Transit and Glosten.	Cassidy Fisher	

### Decisions

The Leadership Committee approved the three budget scenarios for consideration. Quiet Sound will present a single option at the July meeting.

## Acronyms

**Acronyms:** *ECHO* - Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation, *LC* - Leadership Committee, *NFWF* - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, *QS* - Quiet Sound, *SRKW* - Southern Resident Killer Whale, *WG* - Work Group, *WRAS* - Whale Report Alert System

## Meeting Notes

### Welcome/Introductions

Kate Snider provided a land and water acknowledgement. Grace Ferrara (NOAA Fisheries) shared recent research separating the ecotypes of killer whales, designating the eastern North Pacific Bigg's killer whales to be recognized as *Orcinus rectipinnus* and resident killer whales to be recognized as *Orcinus ater* (Morin, P. et al). Link to article:

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.231368>.

Kate Snider provided an overview of the agenda and meeting expectations.



## 24-25 Budget

Rachel presented 2024-2025 budget scenarios for the Leadership Committee to consider. The process is as follows: Quiet Sound creates and receives approval of the budget by the Leadership Committee in April. It is then sent to the Maritime Blue Board in May for approval in June.

**Decision:** The Leadership Committee accepts the scenarios as a package at this time. Quiet Sound is setting up 24-25 contracts in the next two months. Quiet Sound will present the best-fit scenario in the July Leadership Committee meeting when we have more information about revenue amounts and timing and feedback from the slowdown joint work group.

## Strategic Planning

The goal of this session was to further develop the 3-5 year strategic plan for two focus areas: Voluntary Commercial Vessel Operational Measures and SRKW Detection and Alerts. Rachel made active edits in the strategic planning document (more detailed notes will be reflected there rather than in this summary).

Next steps for the strategic planning process include working towards approval of a draft in July 2024.

## Discussion summary:

Overall thoughts:

- Describe broad metrics needs for the overall program.
- The LC noted that several research initiatives are in progress at ECHO, NOAA, Transport Canada, etc. that may support broader quantitative goals for Quiet Sound.
- The LC discussed pursuing a "precautionary approach": being data-informed but not waiting for large studies to be completed before pursuing common-sense approaches to reducing impacts on SRKW.

## Voluntary Commercial Vessel Operational Measures

- "Adaptive" or "dynamic" timing of operational measures means timing voluntary measures to be more responsive to actual whale presence or absence instead of predicted presence or absence. More data and discussions will be needed to agree on whether and how to implement adaptive timing.
- The LC discussed potentially using NFWF dollars to describe vessel traffic and whale presence for Admiralty Inlet if Quiet Sound does not already have data. Rachel noted that she thinks Quiet Sound has that data, but that it could be included in the desktop study to understand the relative value of each area.
- Fast ferries: A number of LC members expressed interest in joining fast ferry related initiatives. Joshua offered to share information on the Kitsap foiling fast ferry's

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underwater noise and whale avoidance plans when it is published. Maritime Blue led an early phase of the project development, but it is now in the hands of Kitsap Transit and their consultants.

- Admiralty Inlet's recognition program should be explicitly called out as an area to invest in.
- Co-benefits of slowdowns: Melanie noted that if ECHO was to repeat the study, she would add fuel savings/economic benefits as well as strike risk and air emissions.

## SRKW Detection and Alerts

- The LC discussed that Quiet Sound's partnership helps Ocean Wise access US support for WRAS in a way that they could not do alone.
- The LC discussed the long-term goals for WRAS alerts, and how AIS messaging fits into those goals. It was clear that not all participants had a similar level of information about how AIS messaging looks in practice, and the group agreed that mariner input would be key to building out new functionalities for WRAS.

## Future Meeting Facilitation

Kate will be retiring by March 2025. The LC recognized her significant contributions to the program. Quiet Sound is discussing future meeting facilitation arrangements.

## Leadership Committee Updates

- PMSA: PMSA just finished an analysis of volume and type of ship traffic, will share with the group.
- ECHO: Conservation Agreement signing event for May 2nd in Vancouver.

## Attendees

- Rachel Aronson, Quiet Sound Program Director, Washington Maritime Blue
- Caitlin O'Morchoe, Quiet Sound Project Manager, Washington Maritime Blue
- Sara Adams, Quiet Sound Graduate Fellow, Washington Maritime Blue
- Joshua Berger, President & CEO, Washington Maritime Blue
- Todd Hass, Special Assistant to the Director, Puget Sound Partnership
- Grace Ferrara, Natural Resource Management Specialist, NOAA Fisheries
- Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound
- John Veentjer, Former Executive Director, Marine Exchange
- Mike Moore, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA)
- Kate Snider, Principal and Founder of Floyd|Snider
- Nora Nickum, Senior Ocean Policy Manager at Seattle Aquarium
- Jennifer McIntyre, ECHO, Port of Vancouver
- Kathleen Hurley, Senior Environmental Program Manager, Port of Seattle
- Melanie Knight, ECHO Program Manager
- Gretchen Hanshew, Acting Branch Chief, NOAA Fisheries

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- Kevin Bartoy, Chief Sustainability Officer, Washington State Ferries
- Kathleen Hurley, Port of Seattle
- Natalie Lowell, Environmental Policy Analyst, Makah Tribe
- Regan Nelson, Senior Advocate, NRDC