MARITIME blue

OCEAN ACTION

One Ocean Week Seattle 2026

Seattle, WA, USA | October 19-25, 2026

ONE OCEAN SEATTLE WASHINGTON WEEK OCT 19-25

Full Calendar of Events

QUIET SOUND

Sound Check: A Quiet Sound for Killer Whales

Brought to you by Quiet Sound, a program of Maritime Blue

One Ocean Week Seattle

Miguela Marzolf

Conservation Policy Manager

Seattle Aquarium

SEATTLE AQUARIUM

Sound Check: A Quiet Sound for Killer Whales

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One Ocean Week Seattle

Mindy Roberts

Executive Director

Puget Sound Partnership

PUGETSOUND PARTNERSHIP

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QUIET SOUND

Sound Check: A Quiet Sound for Killer Whales

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Thank you to Quiet Sound's 26-27 sponsors

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR LEADING SPONSORS

Puget Sound Partnership

Maritime blue — A Strategic Alliance for Maritime Innovation and a Sustainable Blue Economy

AltaGas — ALA Energy

Port of Tacoma

Port of Seattle

The Northwest Seaport Alliance

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — NOAA — U.S. Department of Commerce

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
With support from the U.S. Department of Defense and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SPECIAL THANK YOU

WEND Jewelry, individual donors

ONE OCEAN WEEK SEATTLE 2026

Thank you to our sponsors

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR LEADING SPONSORS

Allen Family Philanthropies

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Sea Forward

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climate solutions

accelerating the transition to our clean energy future

SPECIAL THANK YOU

City of Seattle

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MEDIA PARTNERS

GeekWire

The Economist Group WORLD OCEAN Initiative

October 19 to 25, 2026 | Seattle | luma.com/oows

Maritime Blue is a catalyst for the Pacific Northwest as a global innovation hub for a thriving maritime industry and Blue Economy, leading on climate action, healthy ocean ecosystems, and equitable communities.

Innovation Cluster Model

Who we are

We are a formalized, industry-led, membership-based organization, working in the Blue Economy.

What we do

Our cluster model activates Industry, Research, Capital, Government and Community to:

- Drive innovation
- Overcome barriers
- Access new market opportunities
- Attract talent and capital

MARITIME FORWARD CAMPAIGN

A new home for the Blue Economy

Opening in 2027 at Fishermen's Terminal, the Blue Hub at the Maritime Innovation Center gives our maritime and Blue Economy community a home on Seattle's working waterfront. Core and shell construction of this Living Building is complete, funded by the Port of Seattle and Washington State Department of Commerce.

We're offering tours of the building and we're glad to talk with anyone interested in getting involved.

Support the Blue Hub at the Maritime Innovation Center
Daniel Pulse | daniel@maritimeblue.org

Become a tenant in our waterfront offices
Devon Thorsell | devon@maritimeblue.org

Maritime Blue | maritimeblue.org

What is Quiet Sound?

bers of J pod pass in front of a TOTE
l near Bush Point on September 4.
credit: Rachel Haight via Orca Network

Native peoples and whales have shared these waters since time immemorial.

Vessel Impacts are a Major Threat to SRKW Recovery

- Only **76** Southern Resident killer whales remain.
- Governor's Orca Task Force defined 3 major threats: prey availability (salmon), water quality, **vessels** (underwater noise, presence, strikes).

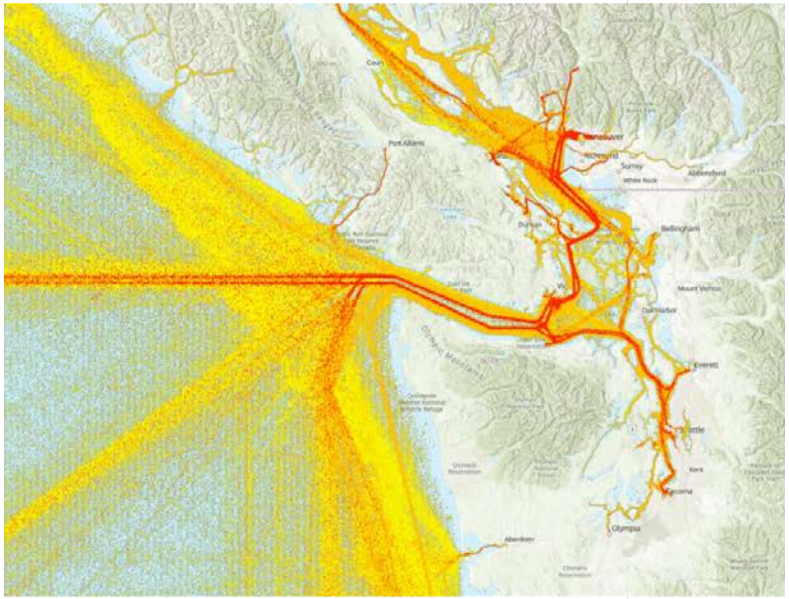
Photo Credit: Ashley Whitman (Orca Network)

Underwater noise negatively impacts Southern Resident killer whales

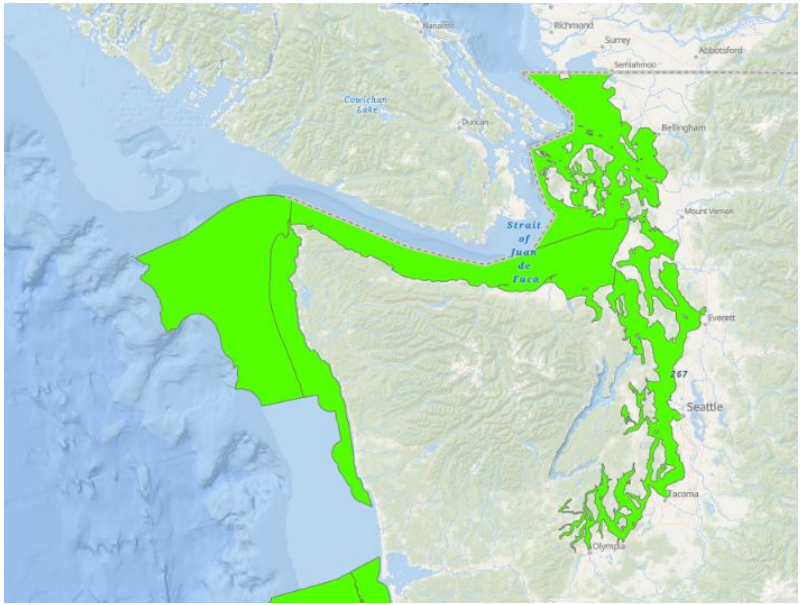
Whales need quiet (under 110 dB) habitat to:

- Echolocate (hunt)
- Communicate/socialize
- Rest
- Navigate

In Our State, Vessel Traffic Lanes Overlap with Critical Habitat



Vessel Traffic (AIS)



SRKW Critical Habitat (US)

Source: NOAA

Consensus and Strategic Direction Across Sectors

Leadership Committee

Expertise From a Broad Coalition

ORCAS Advisory Group

Industry

- AltaGas | ALA Energy
- American Waterways Operators
- Cruise Lines International Association
- Foss
- Puget Sound Pilots

Tribal Government

- Suquamish Tribe

Government Agencies

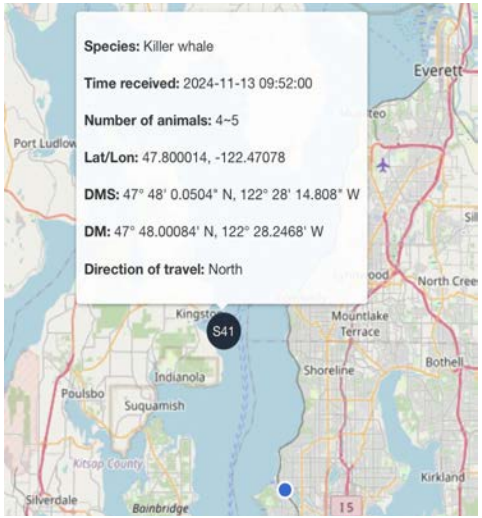
- Department of Ecology
- King County Water Taxi
- Kitsap Transit
- Marine Mammal Commission
- NOAA
- Skagit County Ferry
- US Navy
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Conservation NGOs

- Oceans Initiative
- Ocean Wise
- Orca Behavior Institute
- Orca Conservancy
- Orca Network
- Orcasound
- Whale Museum

Quiet Sound's Strategic Focus Areas

Voluntary Commercial Vessel Operational Measures



SRKW Detection and Alerts to Mariners

Support Adoption of Vessel Quieting Technology

VISION **Quieter, safer critical habitat for Southern Resident killer whales**

GOAL	Most large commercial vessels follow recommendations	SRKW reliably detected 24/7 and mariners alerted	Washington supports quieter future maritime fleets
HOW	→ Voluntary slowdowns → Best practices → Standards of Care	→ Visual sightings → Thermal & acoustic detections → Alerts to mariners	→ International policy → Connect companies to technologies

Voluntary Vessel Operational Measures

Voluntary Vessel Operational Measures

Outcome: When safe and feasible to do so, most large commercial vessel operators are following Quiet Sound's recommendations to reduce their acoustic and physical impact on SRKW, at all times when SRKW are present in the Washington waters of the Salish Sea.

Photo by Marla Smith via Orca Network

Standard of Care for the Circumvention of Nearby Orcas by Light Tugs and ATBs

Operational best practice for light tugs/ATBs operating in vicinity of orcas.

Collaborative effort between state and federal agencies, conservation orgs, tug operators, U.S. Coast Guard through the **Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee**.

Next: Support roll-out and assessment of the implementation of this Standard of Care.

Photo by Jill Hein via Orca Network

Welcome Josh Brooks, Graduate Fellow!

- Supporting maritime industry engagement, particularly around the roll-out of the tug Standard of Care and assessment of it's implementation
- Master's Student in the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs at the University of Washington
- Graduate Fellow position is supported by Puget Sound Partnership

Admiralty Inlet Voluntary Slowdown

Recommended target speeds (STW):

- **14.5 knots:** vehicle carriers, cruise, containers
- **11 knots**: bulkers, tankers, general cargo

Dates: Responsive to whale presence

- As early as September 1 through latest January 31

We measure: Participation, underwater noise, & whale presence

Benefits to participants: Participation data, recognition (certificates, press, regional awards)

Slowdown Implementation Partners

- Communicating parameters to ship owners/operators
- Measuring participation
- Assessing underwater noise reduction
- Collating SRKW presence

MARINE EXCHANGE OF PUGET SOUND

PMSA
PACIFIC MERCHANT SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

Orca Network

SMRU Consulting
understand ♦ assess ♦ mitigate

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD 1790

Port of Seattle®

CLIA CRUISE LINES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

PUGET SOUND PILOTS
Protecting Puget Sound Since 1935

2025-26 SLOWDOWN RESULTS

Most transits voluntarily slow down

- 64% of piloted transits participated
- 677 out of 1064 transits from September 14 to January 11 participated → 100+ increase from 24-25 season
- 56% of transits met the suggested speed targets
- Provided fleet operations managers with monthly participation reports

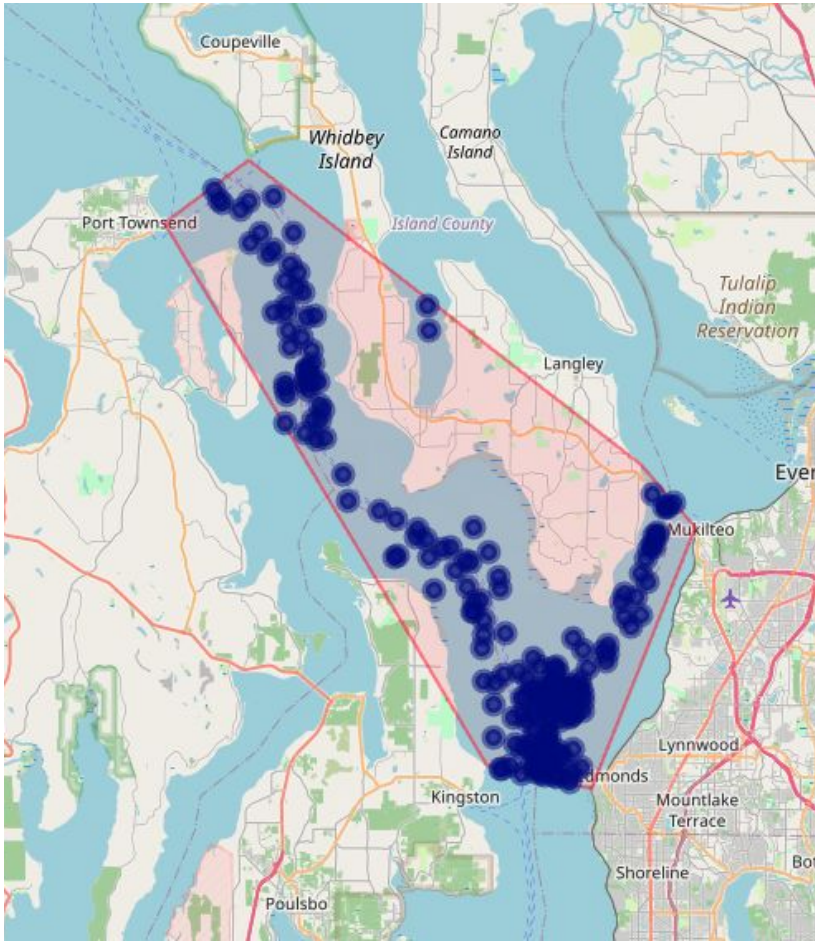
Photo Credit: Marla Smith via Orca Network

2025-26 SLOWDOWN RESULTS

SRKW utilize the slowdown zone

- SRKW were present for at least 34 days
- Superpod event on November 10.
- On December 10, a new calf was spotted in Puget Sound, the first calf in K pod since 2022.

Right: SRKW detections received by WRAS in slowdown zone during 25-26 Slowdown.

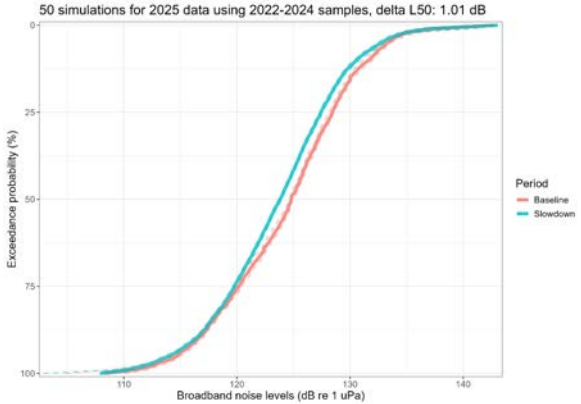


Innovating How We Measure Underwater Noise Reduction

Temporary hydrophone deployed in Useless Bay

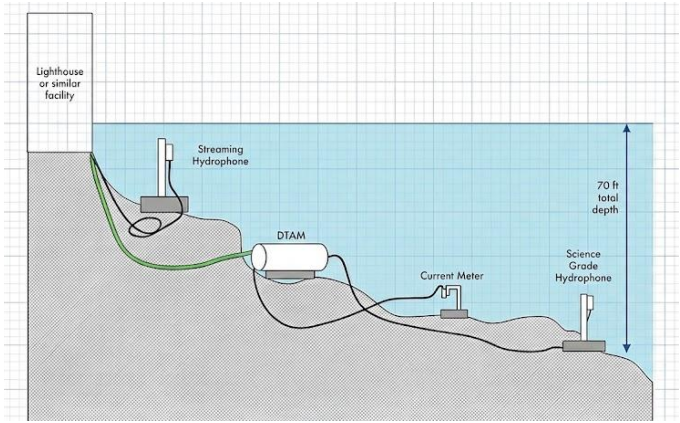
2022-2024

Noise reduction of slowdown estimated using prior datasets



2025-2026

Underwater Listening Station will measure slowdown acoustics



2027 - on

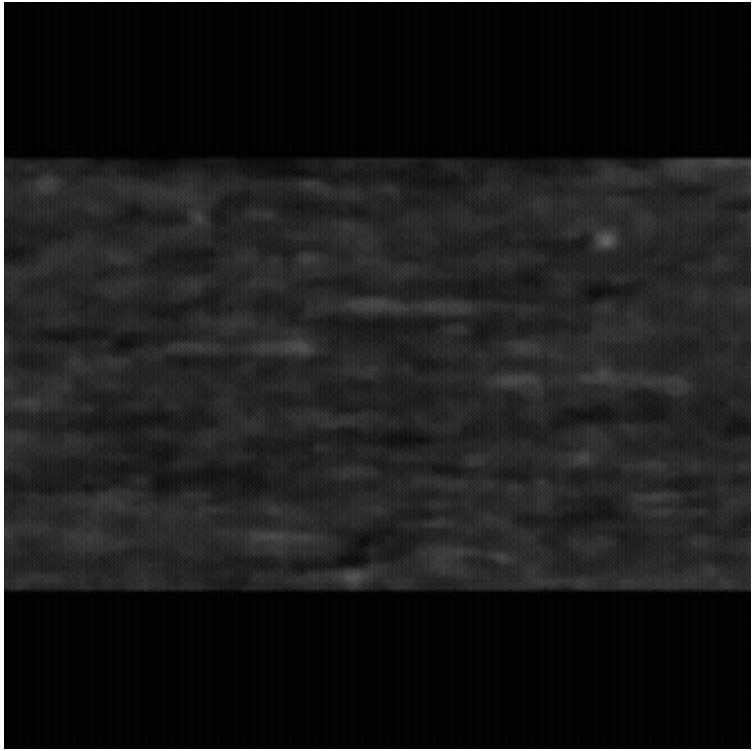
2025-26 SLOWDOWN RESULTS

Underwater noise successfully reduced

	Compared to within-year baseline	Compared to pre-Quiet Sound (2019)
Underwater noise reduction across all vessel types	-1 dB (20% reduction)	-2.3 dB (40% reduction)
14.5-knot group: Car carriers, containers, cruise	-1.5 dB	-2.9 dB
11-knot group (Bulkers, tankers, general cargo)	-0.4 dB	+0.2 dB
SRKW communication band	-1.1 dB (15% reduction)	-2.2 dB (40% reduction)
SRKW echolocation band	-0.7 dB (22% reduction)	-2.5 dB (44% reduction)

2026-27 Admiralty Slowdown Began On September 4

- SRKW arrived Sep 3, which triggered the earliest slowdown start to date!
- New: Dynamic End → Slowdown will end between January 15-31. Quiet Sound will monitor for a 7-day period of SRKW absence beginning January 8.
- 16+ companies receiving regular fleet reports



SRKWs detected by the Point Wilson thermal camera on Sep 3

2026-27 SLOWDOWN RESULTS SO FAR...

72% of Transits Meeting Speed Targets

303 transits fully meeting speed targets in first 5 weeks of slowdown

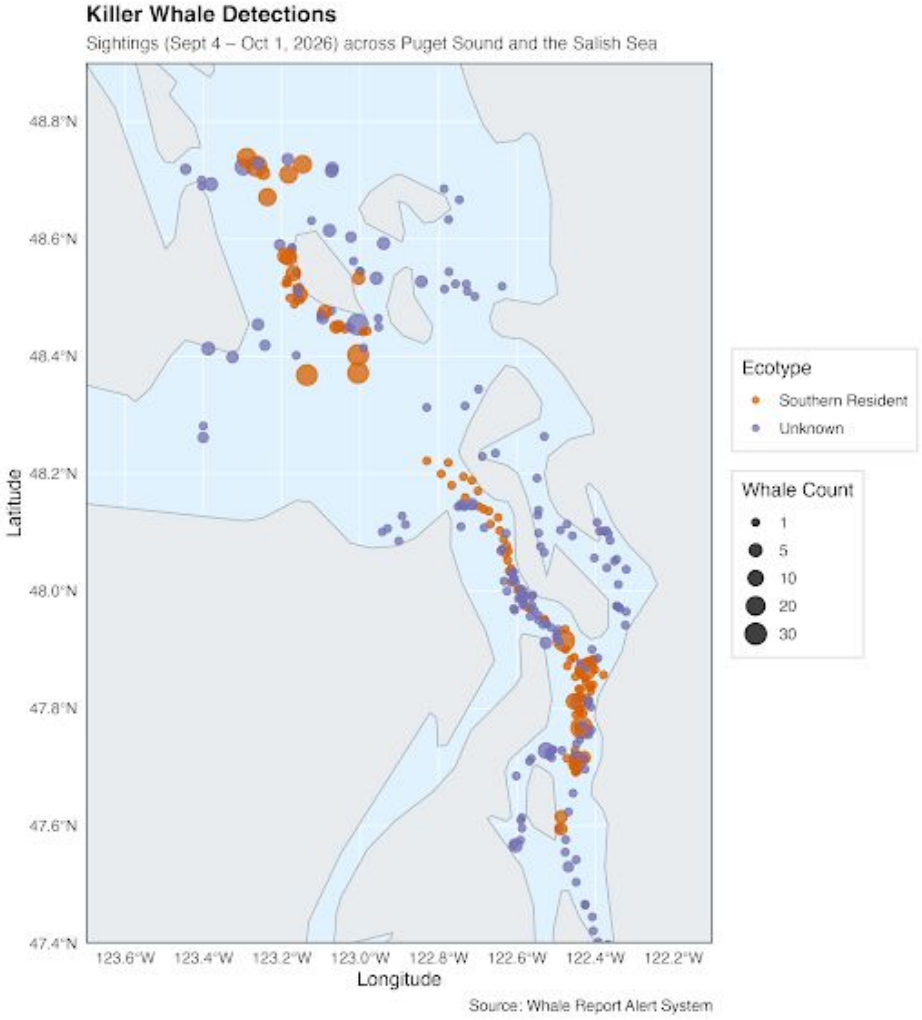
	11-knot group			14.5-knot group			Cumulative
	Bulkers	**Tankers**	**General cargo**	**Car carriers**	**Containers**	**Cruise**	**All vessels**
Weeks 1-5 ***Sep 4 - October 8***	31/48 65%	7/12 58%	6/12 50%	30/63 48%	119/159 75%	110/128 86%	303/422 72%

Killer Whale Presence

- Members of all three pods visited Puget Sound in September
- SRKWs observed in the slowdown zone for at least 30 hours in September by Orca Network staff

Right: SRKW detections are in orange, unknown ecotype detections in purple.

WRAS collates acoustic detections from underwater hydrophones, thermal detections from the Quiet Sound thermal camera, and sightings from trained observers, including Orca Network.



On the Horizon for Voluntary Operational Measures

Participation Dashboard

Improve ease and speed of access to fleet participation data

Created by Naya Putri from Noun Project

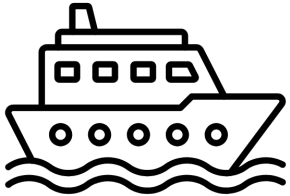
Tug Standard of Care Assessment

Understand how tug operators are operationalizing the Standard of Care

Created by Zildan Aufa from Noun Project

Passenger-only Ferries

Expand awareness and implementation of best practices

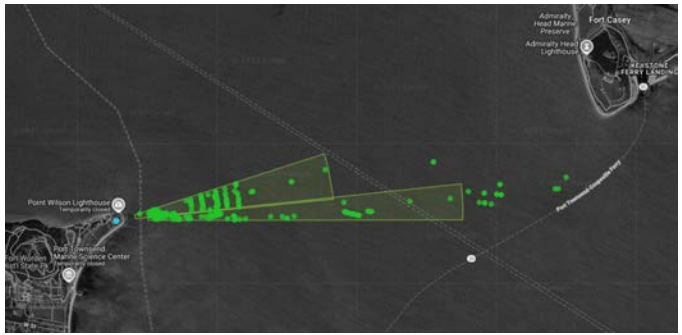


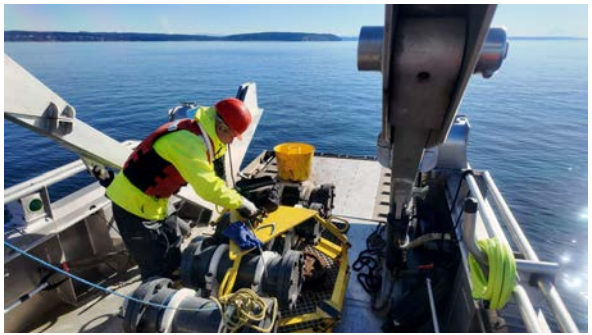
Created by Circlon Tech from Noun Project

SRKW Detections and Alerts to Mariners

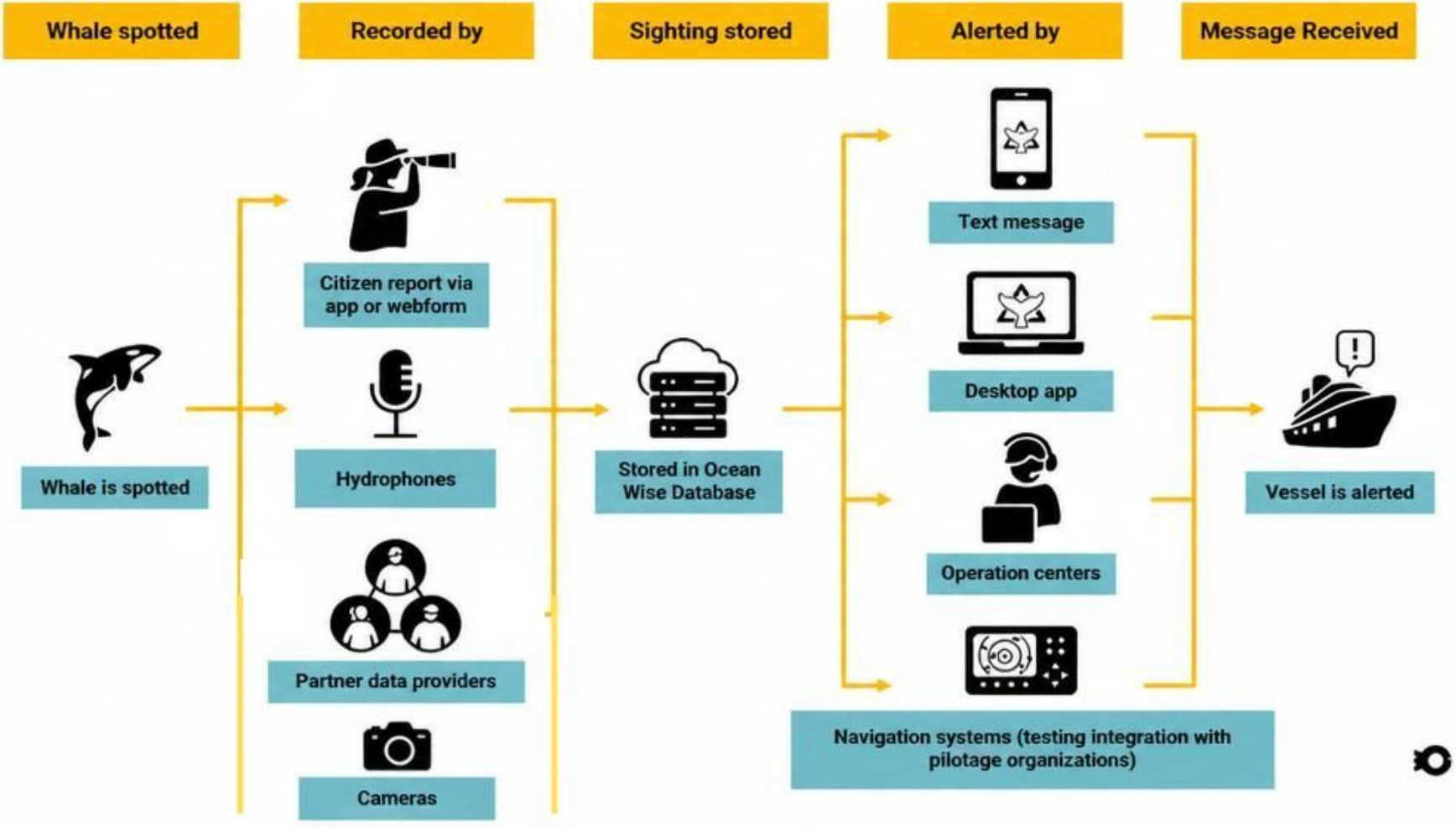
SRKW Detections and Alerts to Mariners

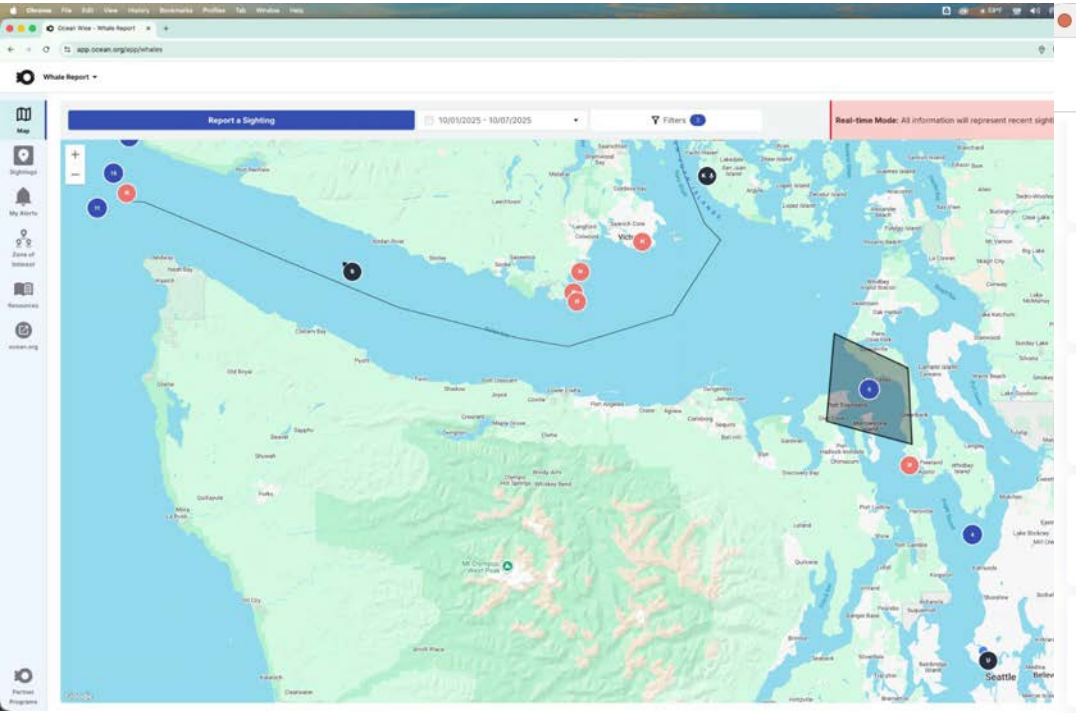
Outcome: SRKW are reliably detected at regular intervals, at all hours of the day, and professional mariners in proximity to whales receive these detections.

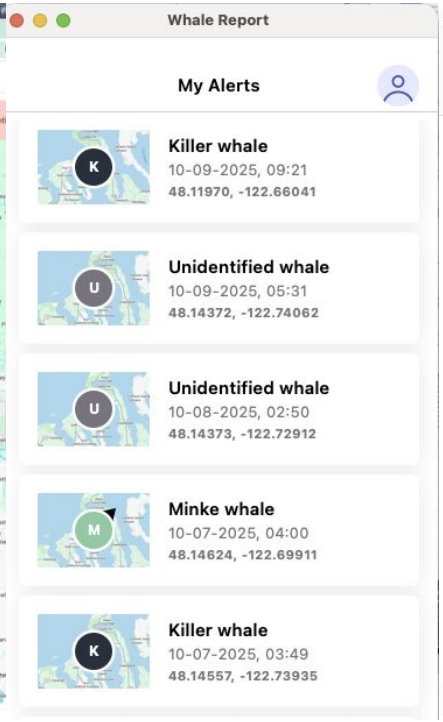


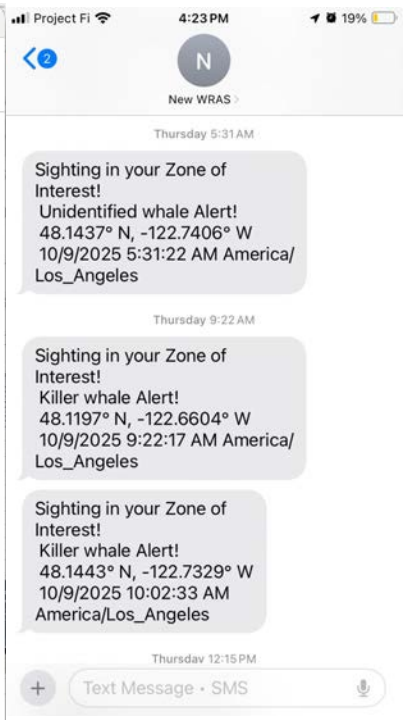


The Whale Report Alert System



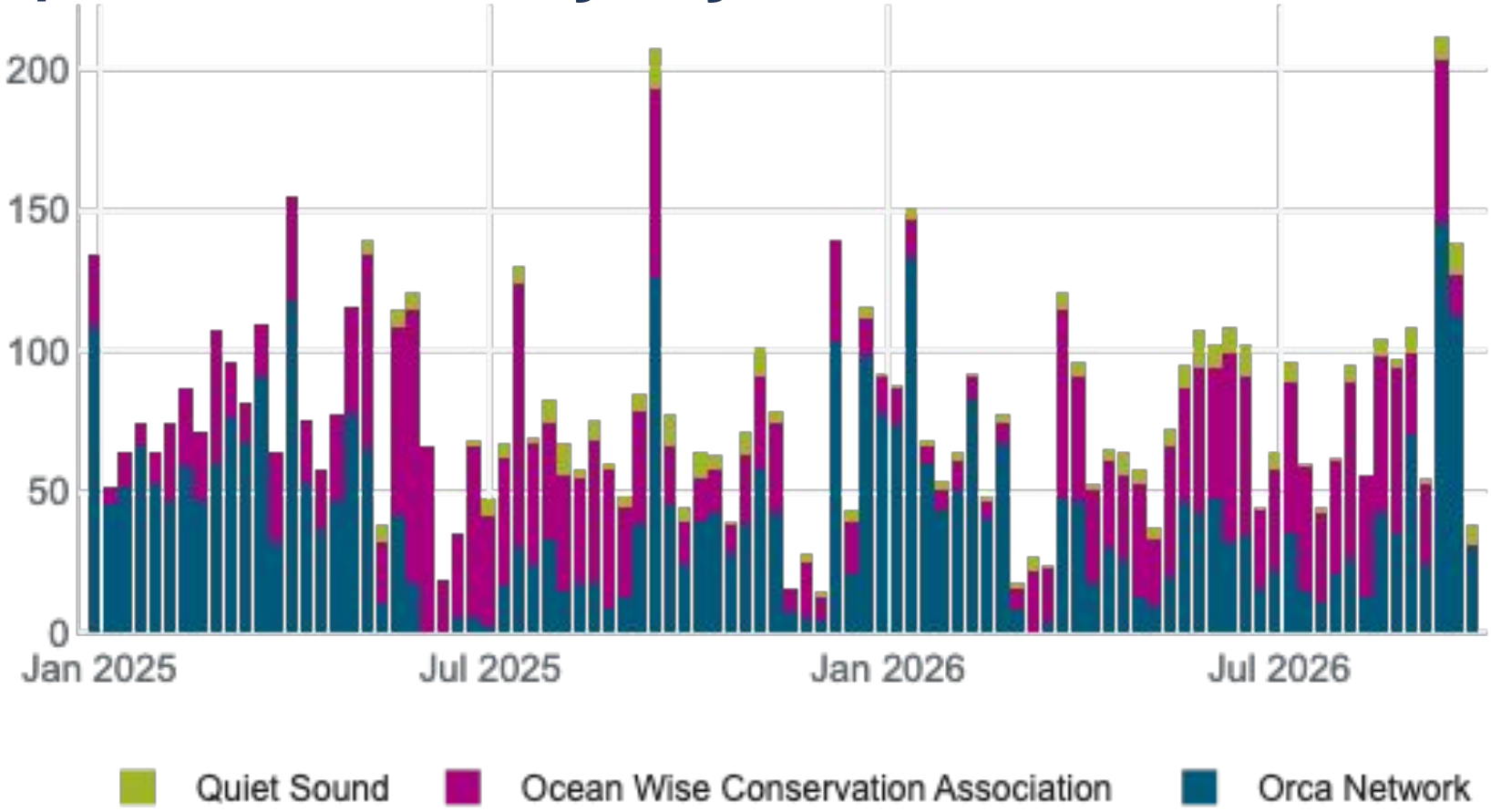




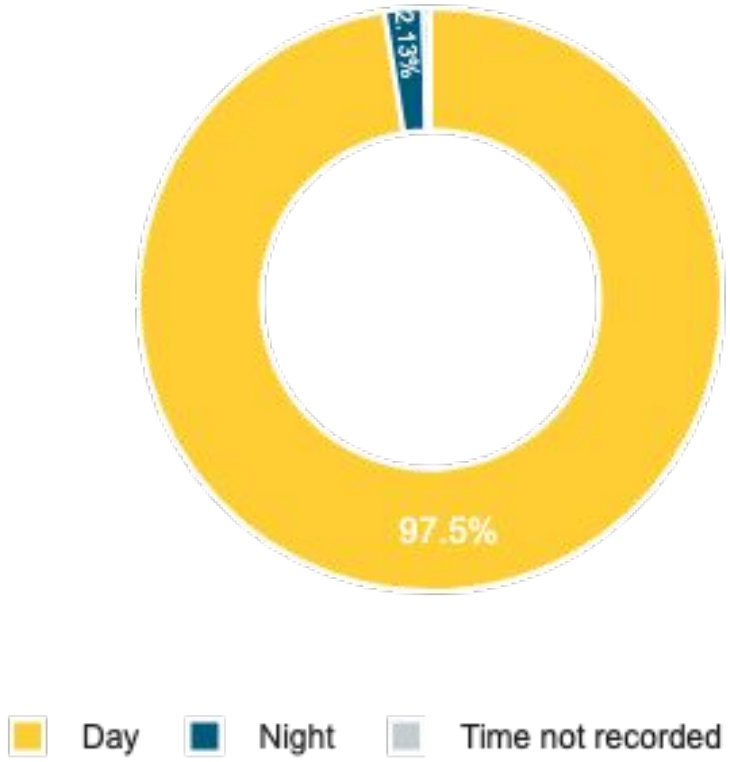


Outcome: SRKW are reliably detected at regular intervals, at all hours of the day, and professional mariners in proximity to whales receive these detections.

Importance of Visual Sightings

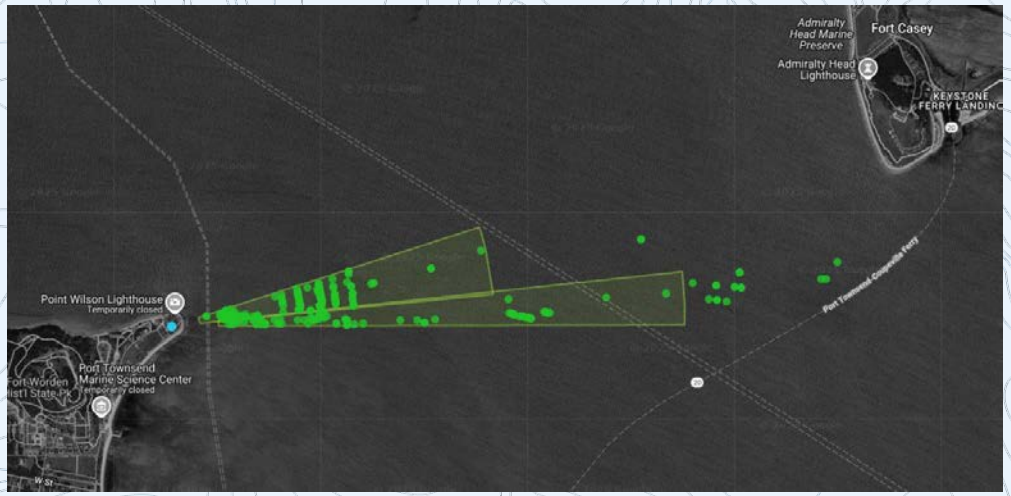


Night gap



SRKW Detections and Alerts to Mariners

Remote sensing



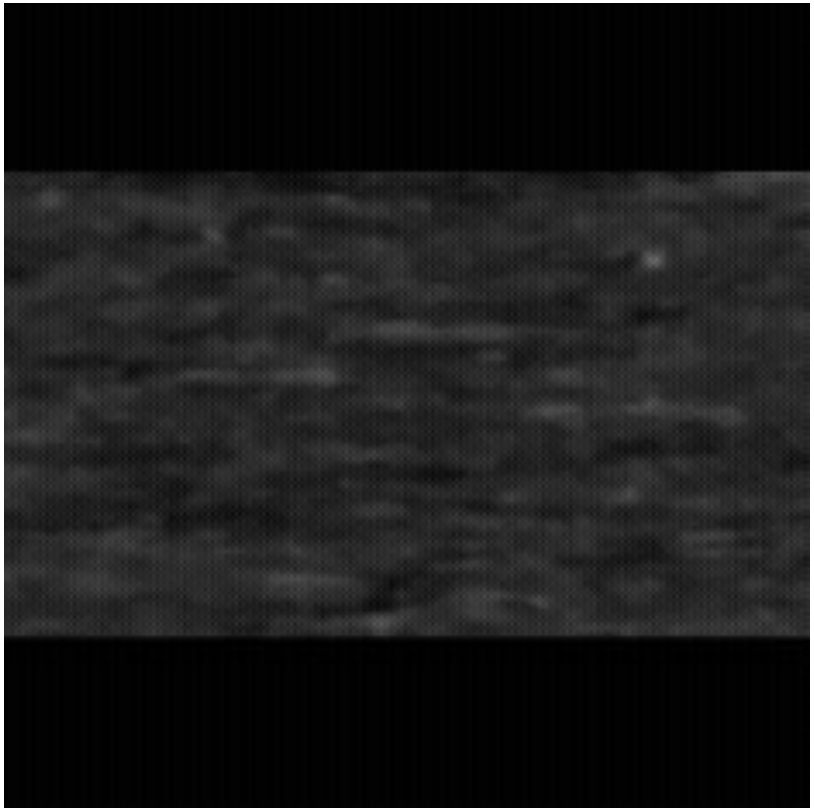
Outcome: SRKW are reliably detected at regular intervals, at all hours of the day, and professional mariners in proximity to whales receive these detections.

First Land-Based Thermal Camera on US West Coast

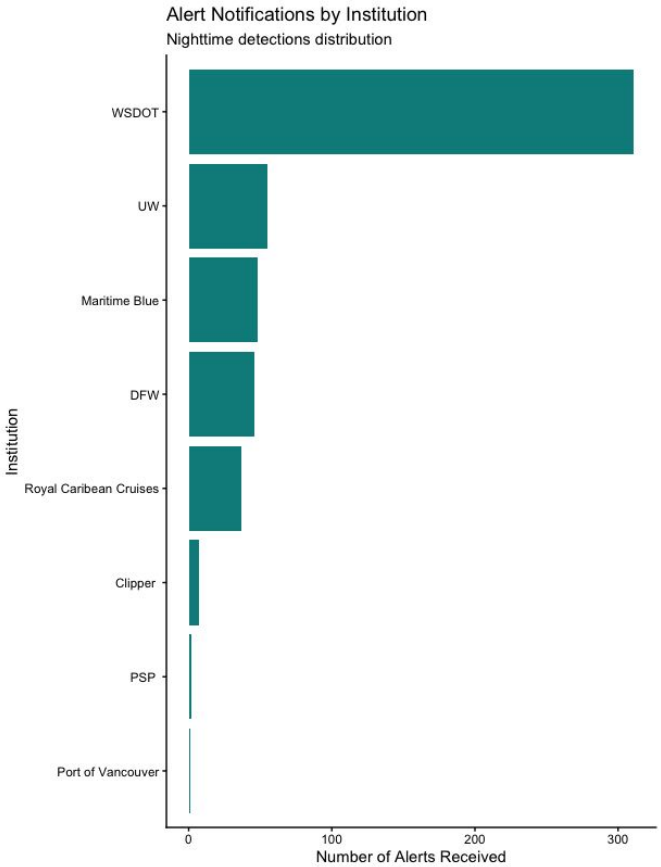
- Installed April 2025 on USCG radar tower at Point Wilson
- Funded by Puget Sound Partnership
- Operated by WhaleSpotter

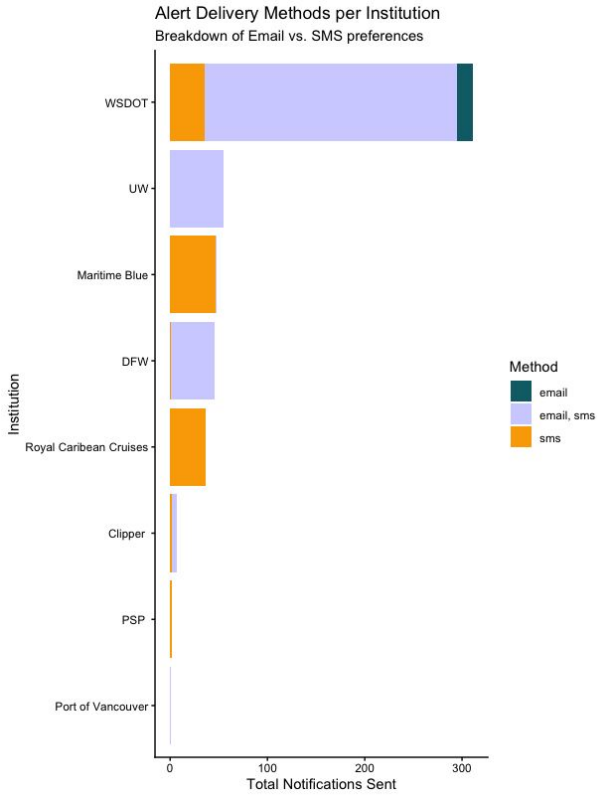
PUGETSOUND PARTNERSHIP

Killer whales thermal footage

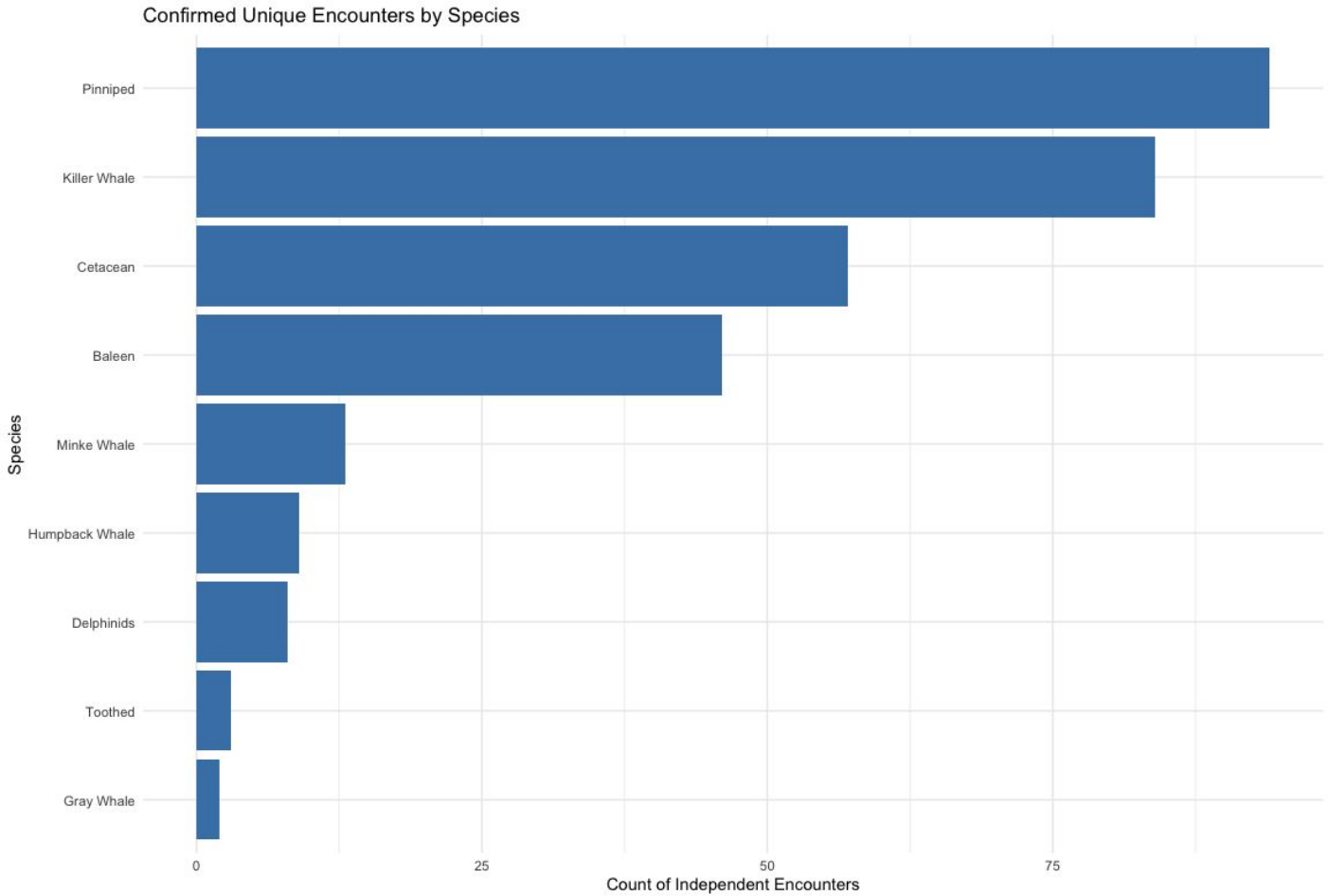


Night Time Detections and Alerts





Data from: Ocean Wise



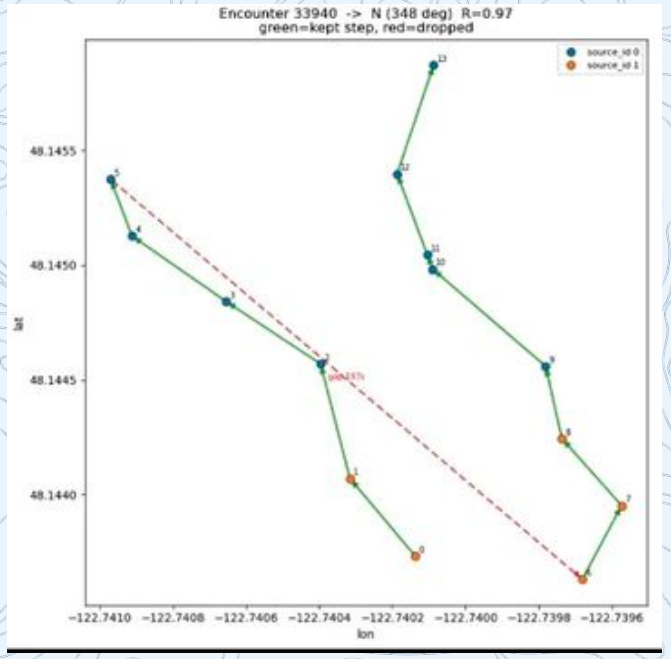
Data: WhaleSpotter Encounters May 2025 - September 2026

Thermal Imaging

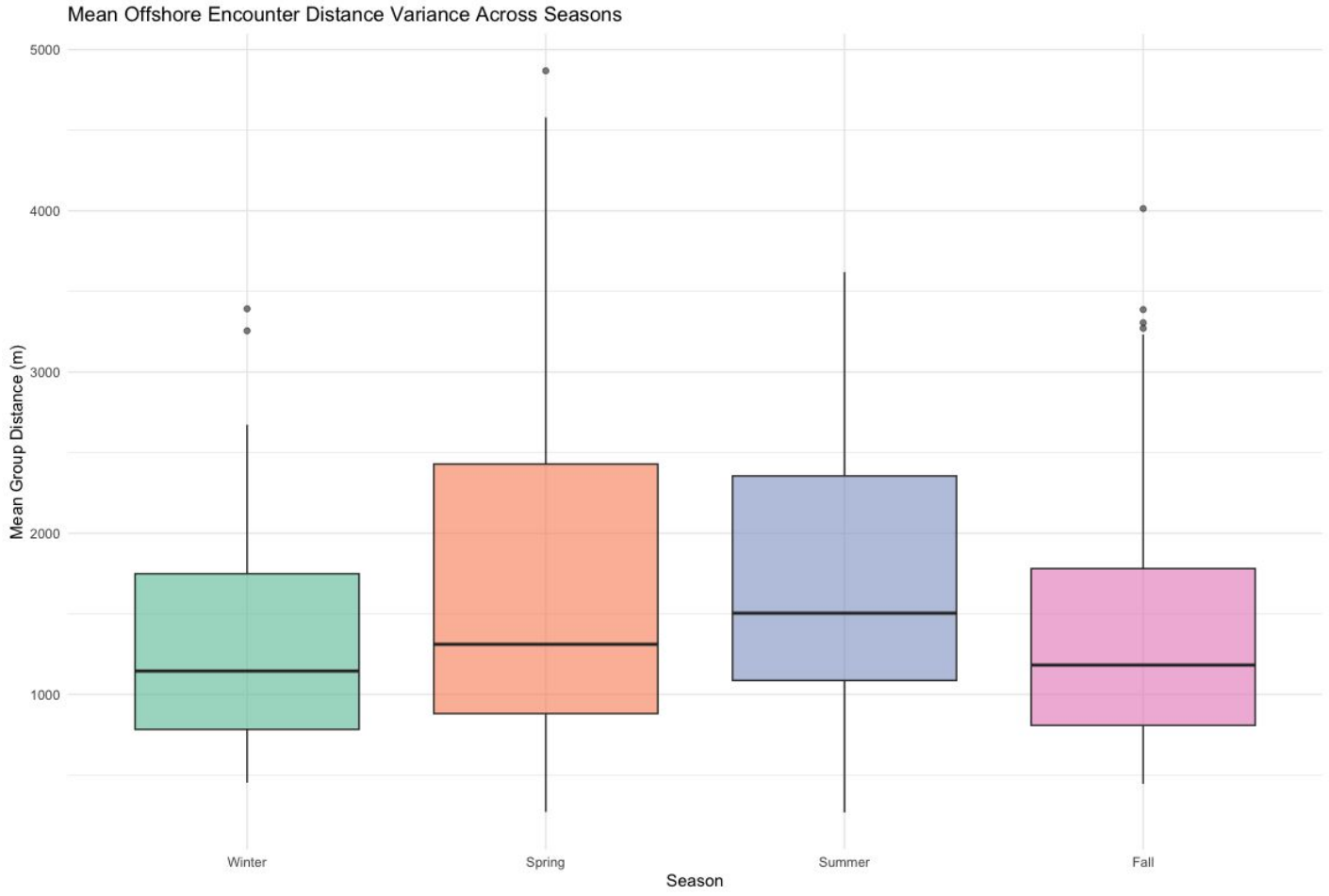
- Completed 1 year of data May, 2025 - May 2026
- Species analyses shows that the thermal data match known ecological dynamics of the area.
- Developed and running directionality module

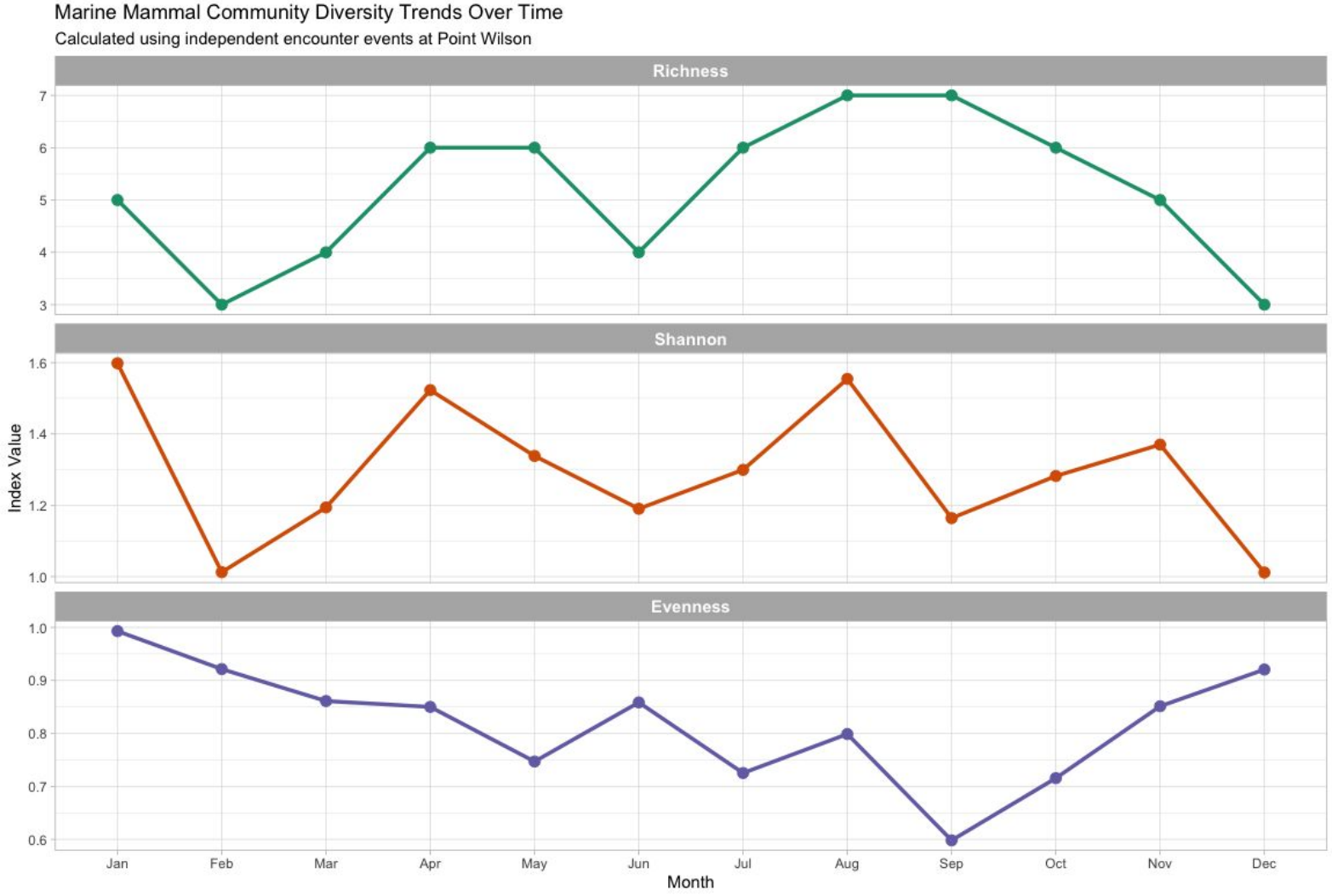
Directionality module

Killer Whale	NW
Killer Whale	NW
Killer Whale	N
Killer Whale	SE
Killer Whale	NW
Humpback Whale	S



Data: WhaleSpotter vectors and directionality of thermal detections.


Mean Offshore Encounter Distance Variance Across Seasons
Mean Group Distance (m)
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
Winter
Spring
Summer
Fall
Season


Marine Mammal Community Diversity Trends Over Time
Calculated using independent encounter events at Point Wilson
Richness
Shannon
Evenness
Index Value
Month
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

What's Next for the Remote Sensing (formerly known as the Thermal Camera) Project?

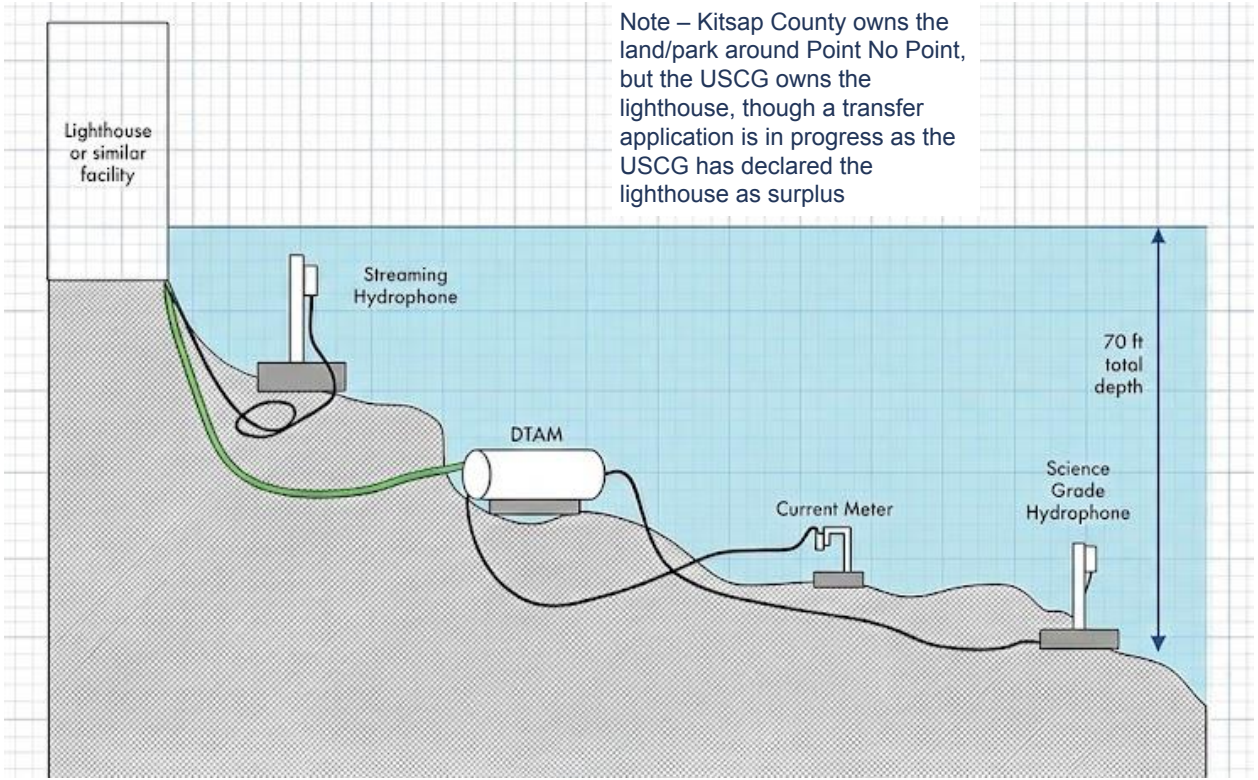
- **NEW:** 2 additional cameras in FY26-27.
  - 1 at Pt No Point with hydrophone (funded by NFWF)
  - 1 location TBD (funded by PSP)
- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge proposal in partnership with US Navy Region Northwest and Naval Base Kitsap for three additional cameras and operational costs for the network (TBD)
- Ecotype ID tests

SRKW Detections and Alerts to Mariners

Cabled-to-shore hydrophone

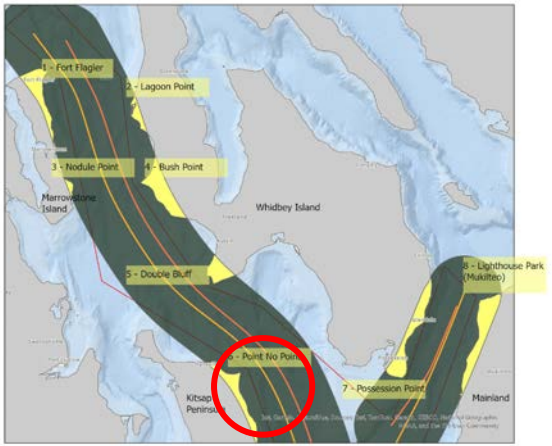
Outcome: SRKW are reliably detected at regular intervals, at all hours of the day, and professional mariners in proximity to whales receive these detections.

Point No Point



Note – Kitsap County owns the land/park around Point No Point, but the USCG owns the lighthouse, though a transfer application is in progress as the USCG has declared the lighthouse as surplus

Description	Meets Criteria
Depth <25m	Yes
Shore-side power available	Yes (Lighthouse)
Land ownership	Kitsap County Parks & Recreation /USCG
Topography	Low-bank shoreline
Nearest transit	Southbound A



“This funding will deploy advanced underwater acoustic monitoring technology to detect Southern resident orca vocalizations around the clock, providing mariners with timely information to reduce the risk of vessel strikes and underwater noise. By measuring the acoustic benefits of voluntary vessel slowdowns, we can use science to strengthen orca recovery while supporting Washington’s maritime economy.”

-Senator Maria Cantwell

Supporting Vessel Quieting

Supporting Quieter Future Fleets

Locally

- Sharing data with Northwest Seaport Alliance VSR study and advising the OCNMS on offshore VSR
- White paper: Challenges/opportunities faced by WA/OR shipyards, including uptake of emerging technologies

Nationally

- Steering Committee of U.S. Center for Maritime Innovation Vessel URN Workgroup and helping direct 75k of MARAD money
- *Marine Technology* publication

Internationally

- IMO Workshop on Reducing URN and Improving Energy Efficiency
- Submitted lessons learned to IMO Experience Building Phase on URN with IAPH, Port of Seattle and NRDC

Credit: Monika Wieland Shields

How Can You Take Action?

Members of J pod breaching as they pass Fort Ebey, Whidbey Island on September 16.
Photo credit: Rachel Haight via Orca Network

Let’s connect!

www.QuietSound.org
info@QuietSound.org

ONE OCEAN SEATTLE WASHINGTON WEEK OCT 19-25

Full Calendar of Events

ALSO THIS WEEK

Join us at Maritime Blue events

Register at luma.com/oows

Full Calendar:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:00 AM — Ocean Action Coffee Hour

11:30 AM (For members) — Annual Member Meeting

1:00 PM — **One Ocean Week Seattle Summit**

- **Rep. Greg Nance**, Washington State Legislature
- **Mayor Katie Wilson**, City of Seattle
- **Gabriel Scheer**, Elemental Impact
- **Josh Cavanaugh**, The Russell Family Foundation
- **Abigail Struxness**, SSA Marine
- **Marcelino Alvarez**, CEO, Photon Marine
- **David Hume**, Liquid Grid
- **Ricky Rhodes**, Filmmaker

Moderated by Maritime Blue CEO, Joshua Berger. More speakers to come.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 AM — **Blue Horizons Innovation Showcase and Exhibit**

11:00 AM — **Washington-Denmark MOU signing**

1:30 PM — **PSBJ Thought Leaders Forum**

Featuring Jason Childs, CEO, Saltchuk Marine; Joshua Berger, CEO, Maritime Blue; Ryan Calkins, Commission President, Port of Seattle; Uffe Ostergaard, CEO, SSA Marine

Coffee Hour Sponsored By

PMSA

PACIFIC MERCHANT SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

Hapag-Lloyd