

Local Variance to Reduce the Impact of Vessel Traffic on Large Cetaceans

Approved: 3 January 2024

Responsible Unit: USCG Sector Puget Sound

While transiting the waters of Puget Sound subject to vessel traffic management, as defined in 33 CFR 161.55, Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Users, as defined in 33 CFR 161.2, are encouraged to notify VTS Puget Sound of any large cetacean sighting by providing the date, time, location, and direction of travel of the large cetacean, unless already reported through the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS) program. VTS users and fleet operations centers are also encouraged to apply for WRAS access and use the application to inform transits within the area.