National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

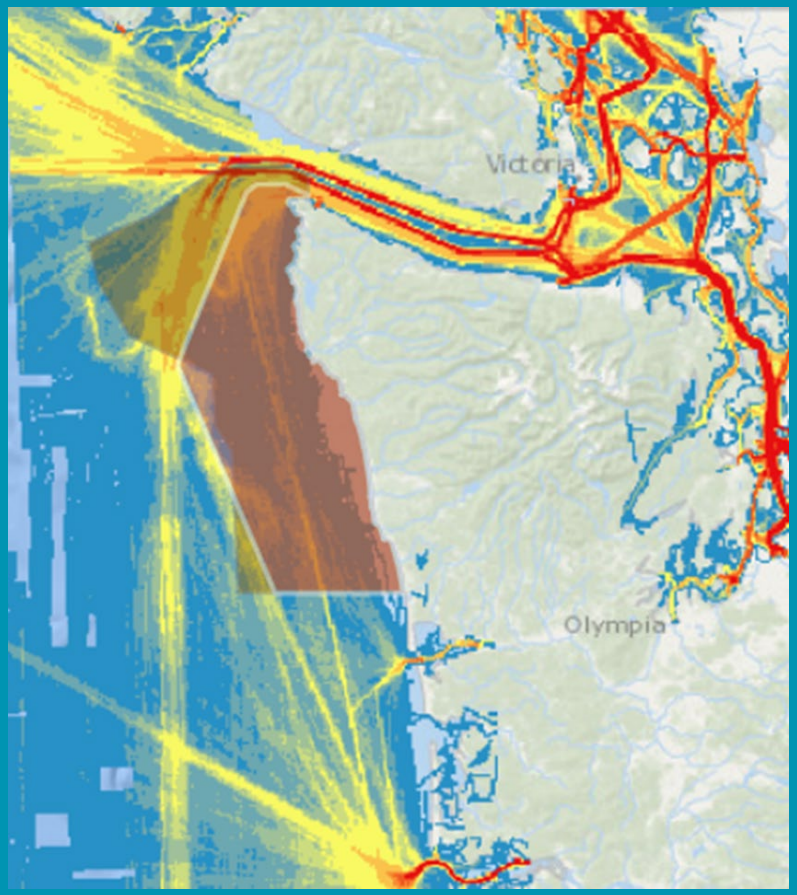
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

OLYMPIC COAST

Cruise Ships in Olympic Coast NMS

July 24, 2020

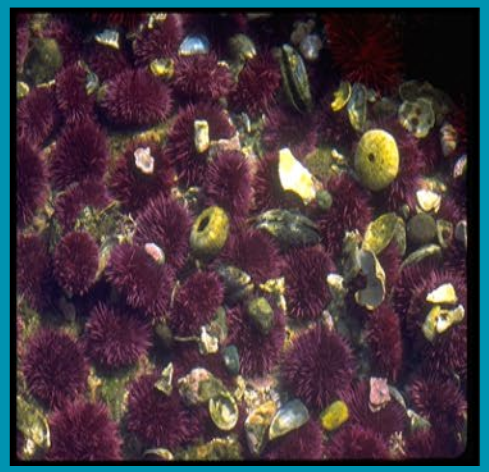
George Galasso



Presentation Outline

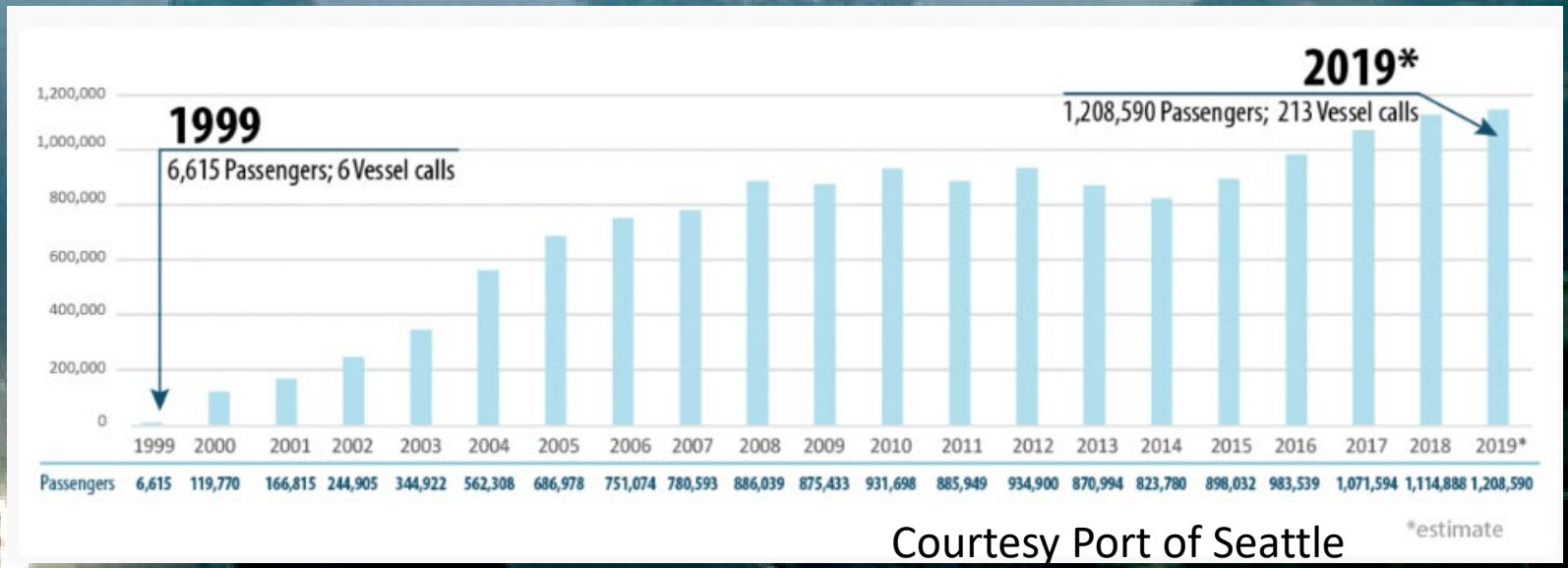
Overview of Cruise Ships in OCNMS

- WA State MOU
- MPR and Rulemaking
- Known violations
- Review of 2019 transits
- 2019 ATBA monitoring (?)
- 2020 Swiftsure Bank voluntary slowdown (?)



Why Focus on Cruise Ships

- Protect State waters
  - Moving outfall
  - Various waste streams
  - Operating a treatment system with volume discharges
- Unique shape of State/marine waters
  - The Puget Sound is the second largest estuary in the U.S. with complex hydrology and areas of poor flushing
- Shellfish protection – public health
  - Over 1000 miles of Approved and Prohibited Area shellfish shoreline



Courtesy Port of Seattle

Advisory Council 2004 Comments on Cruise Ships

- Findings
  - Draft MOU provides minimal additional protections to OCNMS (originally 12 NM)
  - In large areas of OCNMS, outside ATBA, Cruise Ships would be able to discharge wastes
  - Notes that this region of OCNMS is an area of the highest counts of marine mammals and marine birds
- Recommendation
  - MOU be extended to include all of OCNMS

https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_actions.html

Cruise ship memorandum of agreement (MOU)

- Parties include Ecology, Cruise Industry, and Port of Seattle
  - Bans wastewater discharges from all cruise ships (AWTS exception)
  - Allows ECY to inspect the wastewater treatment systems on each vessel
  - Requires cruise lines to sample and monitor wastewater discharges

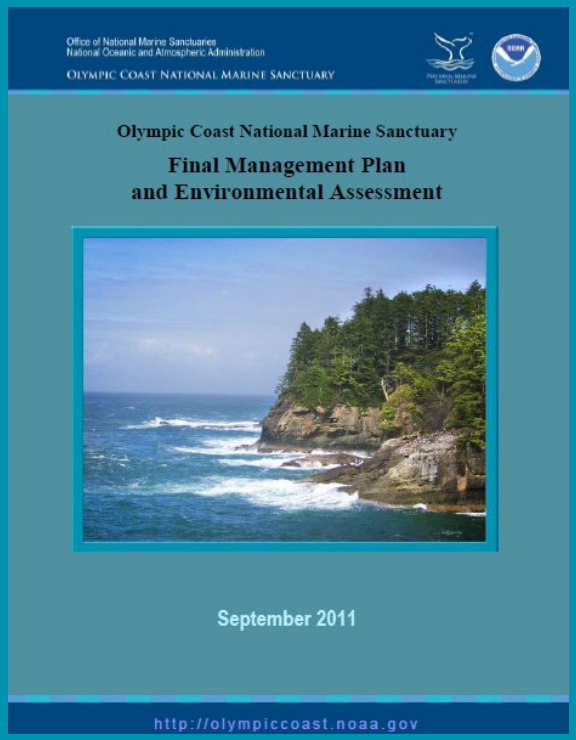
https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Cruise-ship-memorandum-of-agreement-MOU

MOU Public Comment Year

- Request for proposed amendments posted at Port & Ecology website
  - Beginning of November 2020
  - MOU and Amendments
- 21 calendar days to submit (Nov 21st)
- 45 day review period (Mid January)
- 30 Day public comment period
  - Begins mid-February

Rulemaking

- Management Plan Review (2008-2011)
  - Scoping
  - Issue priotization (water quality protection)
  - Working group
  - Water quality action plan
  - Vessel discharge strategy
  - Proposed rulemaking to prohibit cruise ship discharges
- Rulemaking (2011)



Q2: What are the levels of human activity that may adversely influence water quality and how are they changing?

Indicator: Sewage discharges

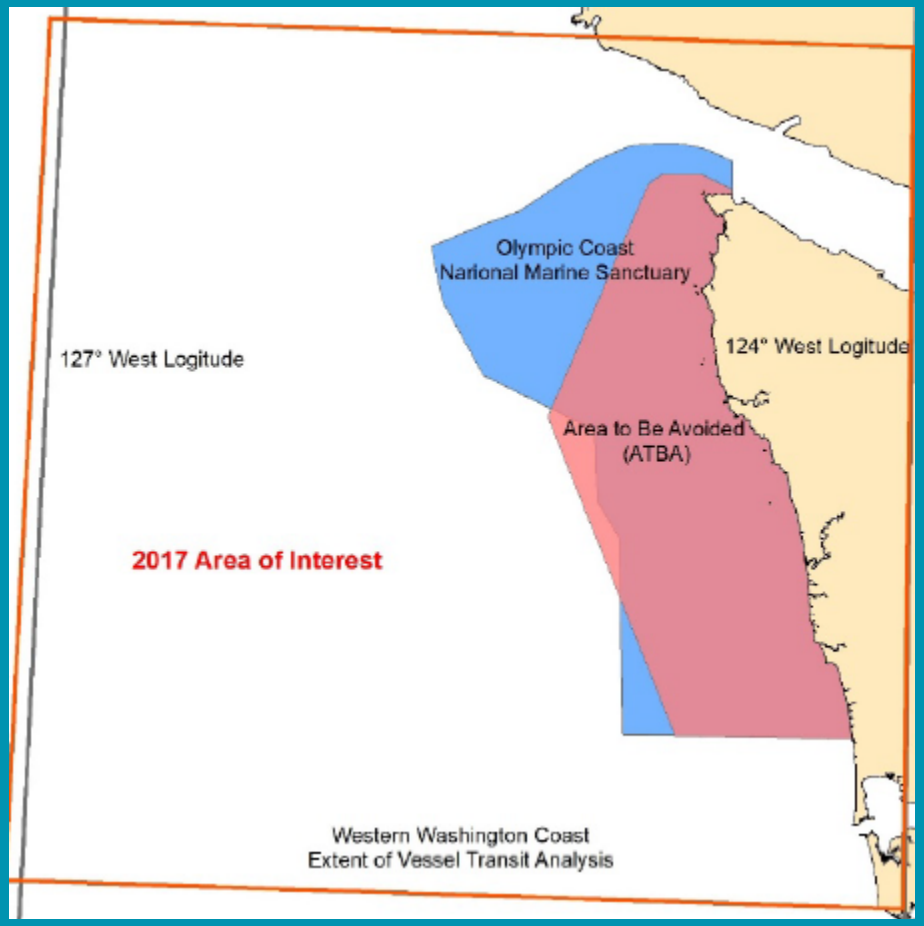
Vessel Classification	*Number of Transits through OCNMS*	*Number of People Aboard*	*Vessel Days in OCNMS*	*Sewage Discharge Volume (low) a*	*Sewage Discharge Volume (avg) b*	*Sewage Discharge Volume (high) c*	*Percent contribution*
Passenger Vessel > 1600 GT	280	2,921	14	231,343	630,936	1,261,872	63%
Recreational Fishing Vessel	10,351	3	2,588	39,851	108,686	217,371	11%
Commercial Fishing Vessel	3,006	4	1,577	34,694	94,620	189,240	10%
Commercial Vessel > 1600 GT	4,272	15	280	23,117	63,045	126,090	6%
Charter Fishing Vessel	1,148	11	287	16,732	45,633	91,266	5%
Tank Vessel	1,401	15	145	11,996	32,715	65,430	3%
other	774	4-500	1-34	7,612	20,762	41,523	2%
TOTAL	**21,232**	**N/A**	**5,003**	**365,345**	**996,396**	**1,992,792**	**100%**

Cruise Ship Violatoins

- 2014 *Regatta* (written warning)
- 2016 *Nieuw Amsterdam* (OCNMS correspondence)
- 2017 *Ruby Princess*
- 2018 *Eurodam*
- 2018 *Grand Princess*

Review of 2019 ATBA Data Passenger Ships

- AOI (443)
- OCNMS (177)
- ATBA (4)
- Estimated Compliance 97.7%



Review of 2019 ATBA Data Passenger Ships

Largest Vessel

- *Ovation of the Seas*
  167,800 GT

Smallest Vessel (> 400 GT)

- *MV Napa*
  567 GT

Review of 2019 ATBA Data Passenger Ships

Breakout by tonnage (443 transit/85 vesselst)	OCNMS	ATBA
400 – 9,999 GT	11	3
10,000 – 29,999 GT	3	1
30,000 – 49,999 GT	23	
50,000 – 99,999 GT	170	
100,000 GT or greater	236	

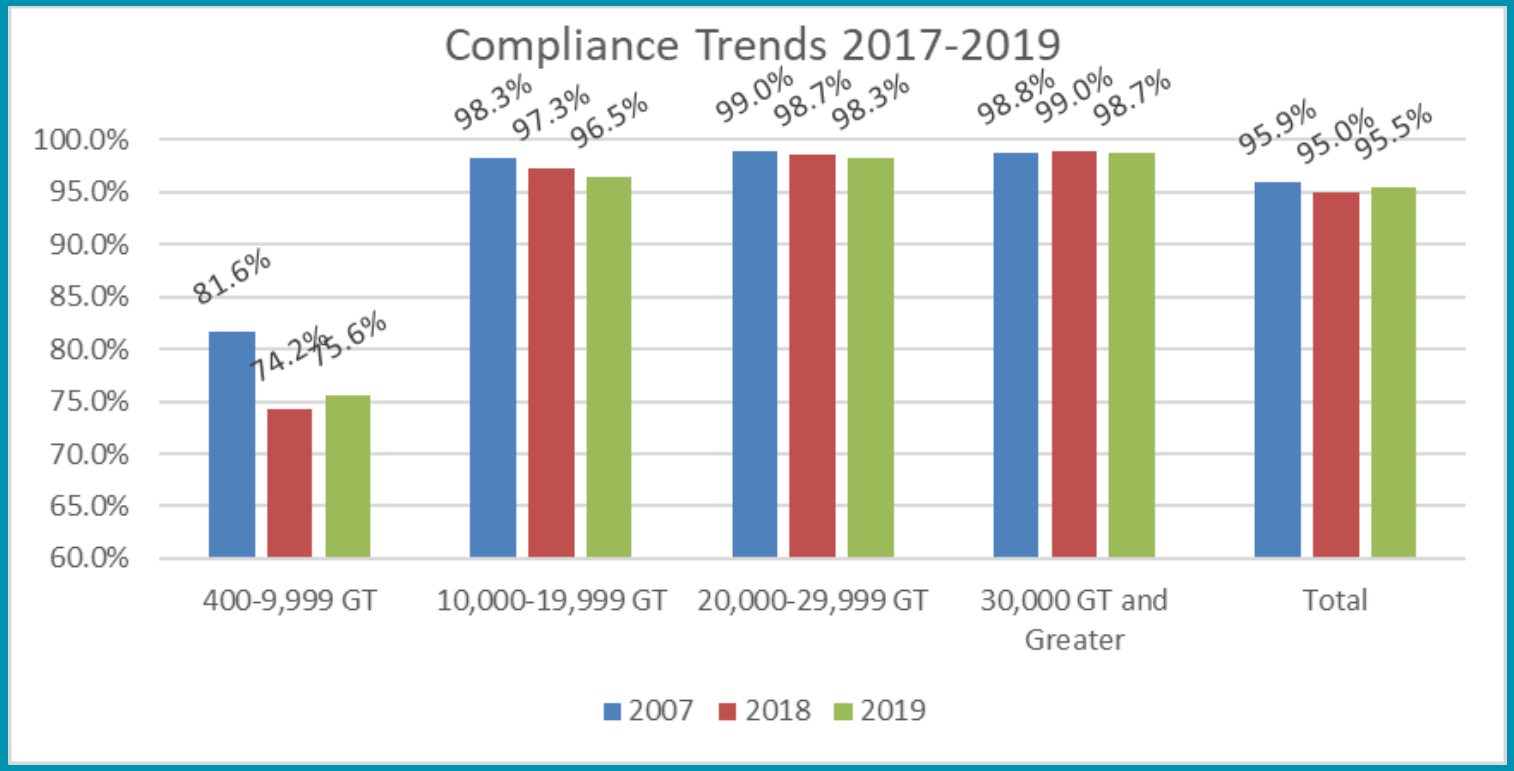
Questions?

2019 ATBA Compliance

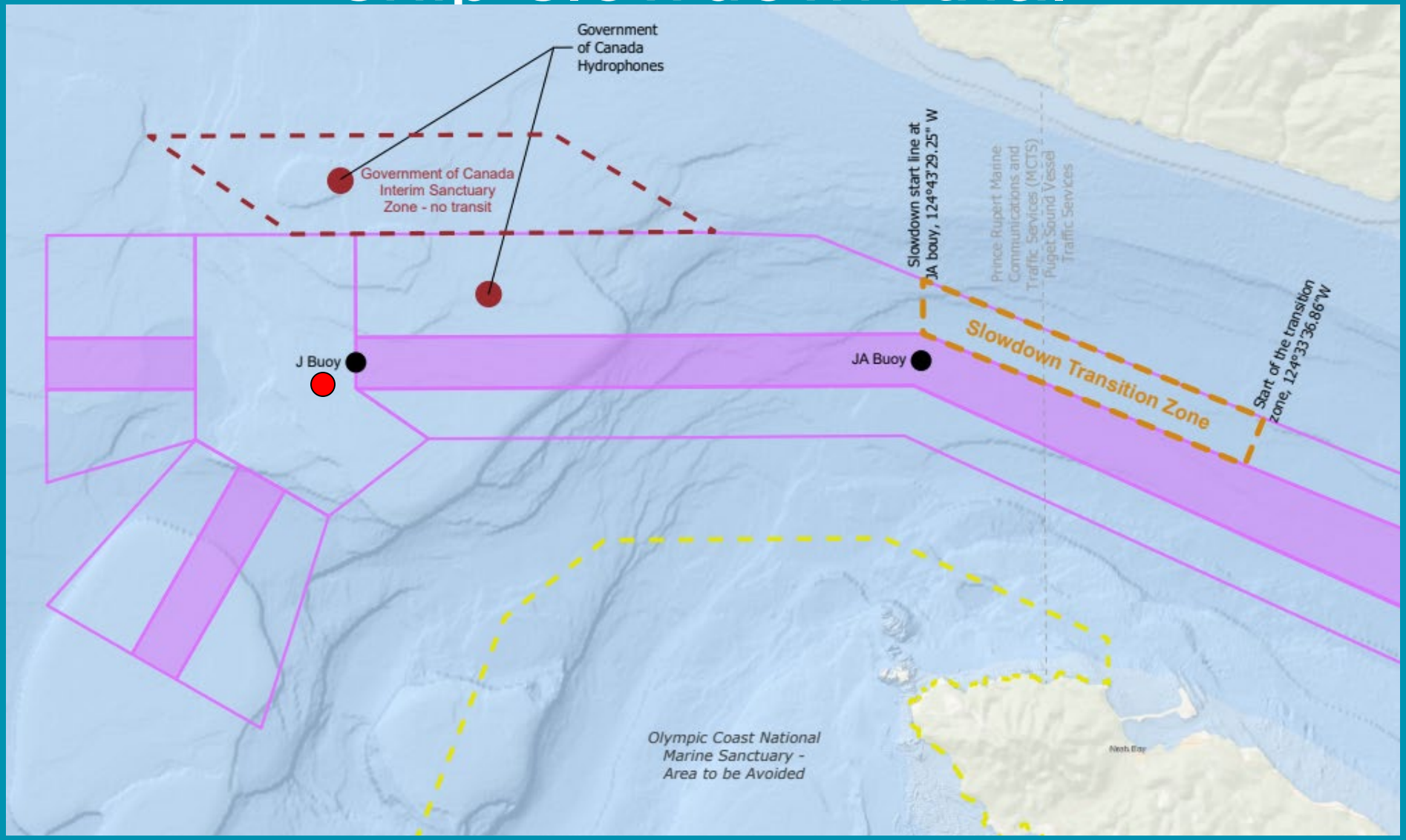
Vessel Type	Area of Interest	Transits through sanctuary	Transits through ATBA	Estimated ATBA Compliance Rate
Articulated Tug Barge	218	198	1	99.5%
Bulk Carrier	3035	1526	18	98.8%
Cable Layer	40	16	0	100.0%
Cargo Ship	422	239	15	93.7%
Chemical Carrier	549	400	11	97.3%
Container Ship	1738	979	9	99.1%
Dredger	3	3	1	66.7%
Fishing Vessel	375	143	113	21.0%
Liquefied Gas Carrier	52	28	0	100.0%
Oil Tanker	296	203	1	99.5%
Passenger Ship	443	177	4	97.7%
Pollution Control	5	0	0	NA
Private Vessel	27	20	8	60.0%
Refrigerated Cargo	35	9	0	100.0%
Research Ship	40	19	10	47.4%
RoRo Cargo Ship	172	99	0	100.0%
Supply Ship	40	22	0	100.0%
Tug	464	165	15	90.9%
Vehicle Carriers	679	516	10	98.1%
TOTAL	8633	4762	216	95.5%

2019 ATBA Compliance

Gross Tonnage	Transits through sanctuary	Transits through ATBA	Estimated ATBA Compliance Rate
400 to 9,999 GT	632	154	75.6%
10,000 to 19,999 GT	230	8	96.5%
20,000 to 29,999 GT	832	14	98.3%
30,000 GT or greater	3068	40	98.7%
TOTAL	4762	216	95.5%



2020 Swiftsure Bank voluntary ship slowdown trial



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