

# A Partnership for Cleaner Air, Safer Whales, and a Quieter Ocean




Protecting Blue Whales & Blues Skies incentivizes global shipping companies to voluntarily reduce their speeds in seasonal Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) zones along the California coast. The program verifies voluntary cooperation; recognizes top performing shipping companies; and calculates the reduced risk of fatal ship strikes on endangered whales, ocean noise, regional greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

[www.bluewhalesblueskies.org](http://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org)

## 2023 Program Summary

Shipping companies enrolled	33
Overall cooperation rate	81%
Distance traveled at <10 knots	375,000 (nautical miles)
Reduced NOx emissions	1,250 (tons)
Reduced GHG emissions	45,000 (metric tons)
Reduced risk of fatal ship strikes to endangered whales	58%
Reduced underwater noise	5.4 (decibels per transit)



The 2023 VSR Program ran May 1 to December 15, 2023, coinciding with peak ozone levels as well as the presence of endangered blue, humpback, and fin whales near the California coast. Shipping company cooperation levels continued to rise with 81% of the distance traveled by participating ships at 10 knots or less, making them eligible for awards and public recognition.

### SF Bay Region VSR Zones

### SoCal Region VSR Zones



# 2023 Shipping Company Awards

## SAPPHIRE (85%+)



## GOLD (60%+)



## BLUE SKY (35%+)



Participating companies received awards and recognition based on the percentage of total nautical miles traveled by their fleet at 10 knots or less.

## Program Partners

The Program includes a unique collaboration between the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and other nonprofits; the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries; and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control Districts and Monterey Bay Air Resources District.



## Ambassadors



Corporate ambassadors actively work with their shipping companies to increase shipping industry engagement in the program.