

2026 Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Zone



41°58.02'
-125°27.36'

40°20.16'
-125°10.8'

37°41.22'
-124°6.72'

35°30'
-123°0'

33°18.066'
-121°12.7234'

32°32.82'
-117°7.5'

Greater Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary

Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuary

Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary

Chumash Heritage
National Marine Sanctuary

Channel Islands
National Marine Sanctuary



- 2026 Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Zone
- Area To Be Avoided (ATBA)
- Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)
- National Marine Sanctuary Boundaries
- Federal Waters

For the 2026 season, the VSR request will go into effect **April 22 through December 31** off the coast of California. Oceangoing vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger are asked to travel at **10 knots or less** in the VSR zone (shown in green) during the Program Dates to reduce the risk of fatal ship strikes to whales, reduce ocean noise, and protect public health along the California coast.

We request oceangoing vessels transit in designated Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and recommended routes, as well as outside Areas to be Avoided (ATBA) to reduce overlap with important endangered whale habitat. Whenever possible, please prioritize use of the western traffic lane of the San Francisco Offshore TSS, and comply with any instruction received by the Navy when traveling in weapons training areas, e.g. south of the Channel Islands. Vessels may deviate from the voluntary speed and routing recommendations whenever necessary to maintain safe maneuvering.

For more details, please contact:
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**Blue Whales
Blue Skies**