

Questions and consideration requests from SRKW Task Force *in italics*; provisional answers from sources and/or Chair, Todd Hass after hollow bullets

June 13, 2018

Topic 1. Sonar

- *What are some options for dealing with the fact that depth sounders are pinging at a frequency that interferes with orca foraging?*
 - Require such vessels, when consistent with navigational safety, to shut off sonars and other underwater transducers within 1 km (vicinity) of the whales. (CEOP, PWWAVG) **Highlighted among initial 6 options.**
- *Is the Navy's use of sonar equipment out of Bremerton and other places impacting the whales?*
 - Recommended for fall phase of discussions.

Topics 2. & 3. Ships and Small Vessels

- *Can we change the geographic distribution of vessels?*
 - Yes—in theory and practice—for example, options like no-go zones and lateral displacement of the international shipping traffic separation scheme, for small vessels and ships, respectively.
- *Consider creating a communication system between the whale watching fleet and commercial shipping, so the whale watching fleet can let them know where whales are at certain times and they can slow down in those areas.*
 - ECHO and Washington State Ferries are collaborating on advancing a communication system. **Highlighted among initial 6 options.**

Topic 2. Ships

- *What incentives does industry need to participate voluntarily?**
 - Vaguely worded/applied: can seek answers through ECHO, though voluntary participation in slowdown trials in 2017 (>60%) and 2018 expected if well-designed/targeted. **Highlighted among initial 6 options.**
- *Request to include specific language about Kinder Morgan and the risk of an oil spill.*
 - As we quantify and plan for potential growth in Canadian shipping through Haro Strait/Boundary Pass and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and consider testing and implementing underwater noise mitigation measures – the Working Group emphasized that the measures do not increase risk of accidents and oil spills or jeopardize human health and safety.

Topic 3. Small Vessels

No-go zone considerations - Highlighted among initial 6 options.

- *Call out the voluntary no-go zones in navigational charts.*

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- *Make sure that the State of Washington's boater education program for new boaters includes the no-go zone – last time this TF member checked, it wasn't included.*

Speed restriction considerations - Highlighted among initial 6 options.

- *Make sure other observers on the water know about the whale watch industry's voluntary guidelines, including slow speed zones that drastically reduce sound—if other observers have that information, they can do the same.*
- *Consider go-slow zones **

Time-of-day restriction considerations

- *Consider time-of-day restrictions that could reduce impact of vessel noise on orcas.**
 - This and other access-rationing options recommended for fall phase of discussions.

Topic 4. Ferries -- Highlighted among initial 6 options.

- *Consider quieter ferries that can participate in a program similar to or in conjunction with the Canadian ECHO program. (Note: Amy Scarton also said in the meeting that she hopes to get the Task Force's support and help in transforming our state ferry system into one that leads the world in clean, quiet electric ferries.)*

Topics mostly outside current WG composition and scope

Topic 5. Shore-based noise

- INFO: (LATER) *What are the issues with noise not from vessels (e.g., pile-driving)?*
 - We can share WSF slides and May 31 summary for Executive Order.

Topic 6. Vessel-based contaminants

- INFO: (LATER) *Are contaminants from the bottom paints used on vessels a problem? (Also shared this one with the Toxics WG.)*
- INFO: CONSIDER WHEN LIST NARROWED FURTHER, APPLY TO SHIPS, SMALLER VESSELS *What does it cost to reduce one decibel?*

*May apply to small vessels as well

**May apply to ships as well