

The purpose of this list serve notice is to assist the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) broadcast an advisory concerning populations of endangered whales off the coast of Southern California. NOAA has requested and the California Air Resources Board has agreed to provide outreach through the Maritime List Serve to help broadcast the NOAA advisory to mariners.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – WHALES– POINT ARGUELLO TO DANA POINT

NOAA recommends that vessels transiting the area between Point Arguello and Dana Point, including the Traffic Separation Schemes in the Santa Barbara Channel and San Pedro Channel, from May through November, should exercise caution and reduce speed. These areas contain populations of endangered blue, humpback and fin whales. Collisions with these animals resulting in their injury or death is a violation of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1538 et seq.), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

NOAA strongly recommends that vessels 300 gross registered tons or larger transiting the Santa Barbara Channel traffic separation scheme in the area between Sandy Point, Santa Rosa Island and Point Hueneme do so at speeds not in excess of 10 knots due to whales in this area.

A chart of the Southern California Whale Advisory Zone can be found at:

low resolution version (for faster loading):

http://www.arb.ca.gov/ports/marinevess/documents/slowspeed_waz31jul2012_lores.jpg

or a high resolution version

http://www.arb.ca.gov/ports/marinevess/documents/slowspeed_waz31jul2012.jpg

Additional information from NOAA can be found at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/alert.html> and

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/shipstrike/welcome.html>

Please report any collisions with whales or any observed injured or dead whales, including the time and position, to NOAA at 877-SOS-WHAlE ([877-767-9425](tel:877-767-9425)) or to the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16.