

April 12, 2023

**Re: Letter of Understanding to participate in the 2023 Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program**

Shipping Line \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to participate in the 2023 program.

In order to participate, Shipping Line \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to the following:

- 1) Identify all eligible vessels (i.e., container ships, car carriers (Ro-Ros), bulk and general cargo vessels, and tankers) in your company fleet that may transit within the designated Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Zones (refer to maps of 2023 VSR Zones in Attachment A) from **May 1 - December 15, 2023**.
- 2) Understand that this incentive program is strictly voluntary and that only companies whose fleets travel 35% or more of the distance traveled in VSR zones at 10 knots or less are eligible for participation in and recognition from the 2023 program. The award level and public recognition that a particular company will receive will be based on the percent distance traveled at 10 knots or less. No financial awards will be offered in the 2023 program.

Below are the 2023 award tiers:

Blue Sky: 35% or more of distance traveled in VSR zones at 10 knots or less

Gold: 60% or more of distance traveled in VSR zones at 10 knots or less

Sapphire: 85% or more of distance traveled in VSR zones at 10 knots or less

- 3) Understand that the average speed of a transit through an entire VSR Zone must not exceed 12 knots to earn credit for distance traveled at 10 knots or less. Also, any nautical miles transited by participating vessels within the Area to Be Avoided (ATBA) in the southern California region will not be counted towards a company's distance traveled at 10 knots or less.
- 4) Allow for participation in public recognition campaigns - all shipping lines that achieve at least 35% of distance traveled in the VSR Zones at 10 knots or less will be recognized for their participation through various media, advertising, news releases, announcements, and award events. Participation includes use of company name and logo in program promotional material, as well as the option to provide quotes for press releases and other material.

- 5) Understand and agree that decisions concerning safe navigation and maneuvering of participating vessels remain entirely with ship masters and crew. The Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies partners are not liable for any loss, damage, or harm resulting from participation in this incentive program.
- 6) Seek opportunities to highlight, as appropriate, the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program in communications with customers and in corporate sustainability reports.

For more information on this incentive program, please visit [www.bluewhalesblueskies.org](http://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org)

Please return this signed Letter of Understanding and completed Sign Up Form by email to Jessica Morten ([jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov)) by **May 1, 2023**.

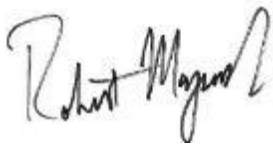
In signing this Letter of Understanding, the undersigned recognizes and accepts the roles and responsibilities assigned to each party.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Print Name and Title

Thank you,



Robert Mazurek, Executive Director - California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

On behalf of the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program Partnership

# PROTECTING BLUE WHALES AND BLUE SKIES



A partnership for cleaner air, safer whales, and a quieter ocean

## Join our 2023 Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Program in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay and Southern California regions

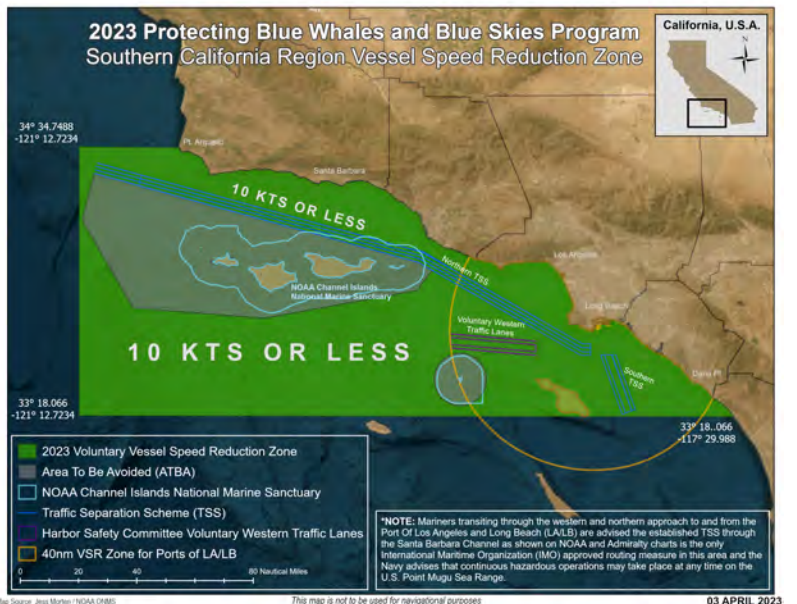
### Fleet Approach

Award levels and incentives will be awarded to shipping companies based on percent of distance traveled by all of their vessels through the VSR zones (see maps to the right) at 10 knots or less from May 1 - December 15, 2023. For any distance at 10 knots to qualify for the VSR incentive program, the average speed through the VSR zone for the vessel's transit must be 12 knots or less.

Program participants will receive recognition for their participation, and we will work with successful shipping companies on a positive public relations campaign to draw public awareness to the VSR program and your company's participation.

### How to Sign Up Your Shipping Company

- 1 Complete the Sign-Up Form on the next page to provide company contact information.
- 2 Sign the Letter of Understanding (Pages 1 & 2)
- 3 Email these materials to: [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov) by May 1, 2023.



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# Sign-Up Form

Shipping Company Name:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Full Name of Shipping Company Main Contact:

Email:

Business Street Address:

Preference:

Phone

Email

City:

State:

Country:

Zip:



**Email this form to:**

Jessica Morten

Email: [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov)

**Thank you for participating in our 2023 VSR Incentive Program!**

More information posted at [www.bluewhalesblueskies.org](http://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org)