

VOLUNTARY VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION ZONE TO REDUCE IMPACT OF SHIP STRIKES ON WHALES

California, U.S.A.



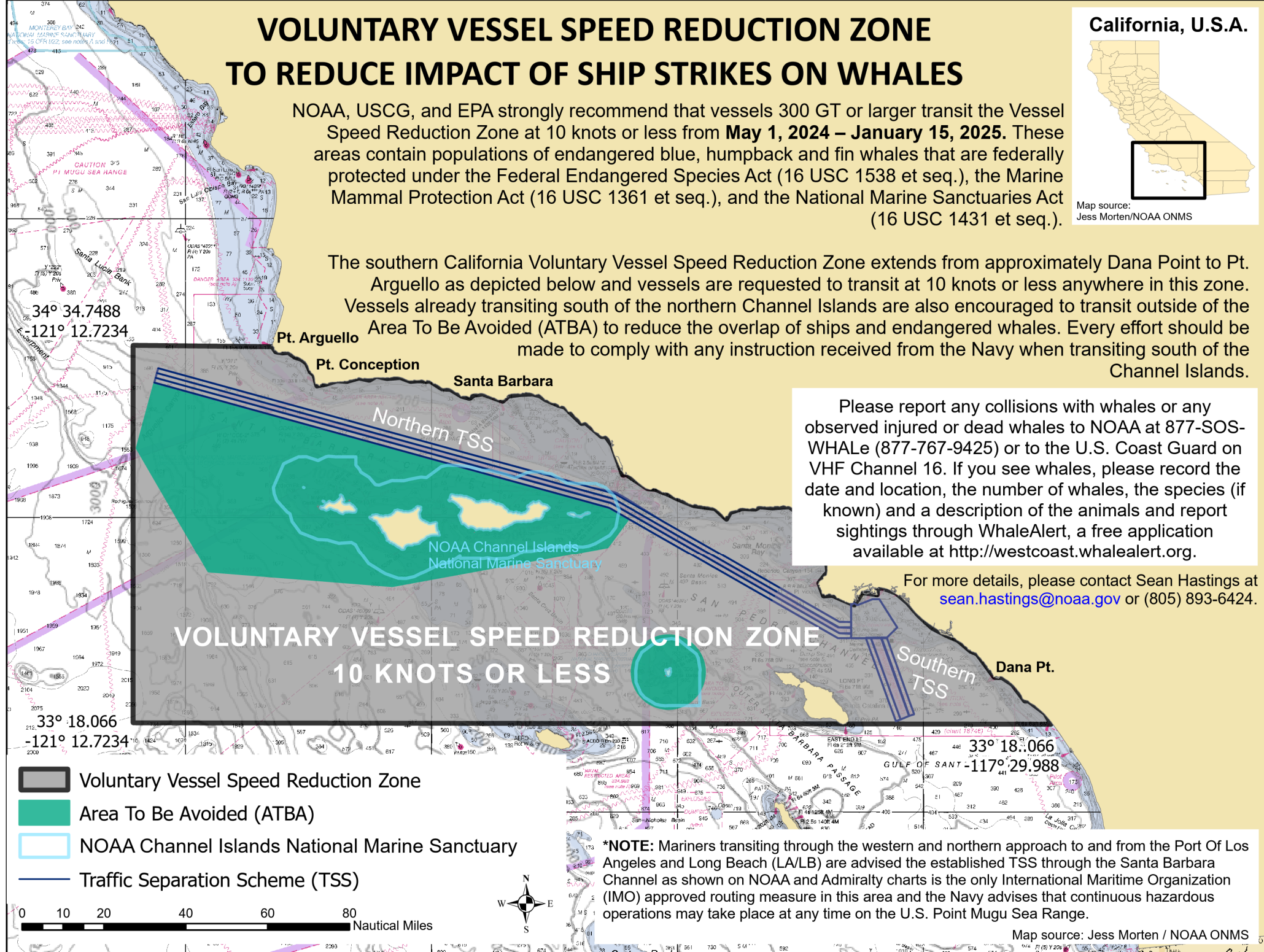
Map source:
Jess Morten/NOAA ONMS

NOAA, USCG, and EPA strongly recommend that vessels 300 GT or larger transit the Vessel Speed Reduction Zone at 10 knots or less from **May 1, 2024 – January 15, 2025**. These areas contain populations of endangered blue, humpback and fin whales that are federally protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1538 et seq.), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431 et seq.).

The southern California Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Zone extends from approximately Dana Point to Pt. Arguello as depicted below and vessels are requested to transit at 10 knots or less anywhere in this zone. Vessels already transiting south of the northern Channel Islands are also encouraged to transit outside of the Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) to reduce the overlap of ships and endangered whales. Every effort should be made to comply with any instruction received from the Navy when transiting south of the Channel Islands.

Please report any collisions with whales or any observed injured or dead whales to NOAA at 877-SOS-WHAlE (877-767-9425) or to the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16. If you see whales, please record the date and location, the number of whales, the species (if known) and a description of the animals and report sightings through WhaleAlert, a free application available at <http://westcoast.whalealert.org>.

For more details, please contact Sean Hastings at sean.hastings@noaa.gov or (805) 893-6424.



VOLUNTARY VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION ZONE
10 KNOTS OR LESS

- Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Zone
- Area To Be Avoided (ATBA)
- NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)

***NOTE:** Mariners transiting through the western and northern approach to and from the Port Of Los Angeles and Long Beach (LA/LB) are advised the established TSS through the Santa Barbara Channel as shown on NOAA and Admiralty charts is the only International Maritime Organization (IMO) approved routing measure in this area and the Navy advises that continuous hazardous operations may take place at any time on the U.S. Point Mugu Sea Range.

Map source: Jess Morten / NOAA ONMS