



Transport Canada's Whale Protection Policy

Shipping Risk Mitigation Workshop – September 2022



Transport
Canada

Transports
Canada

Canada 

Outline

- Transport Canada Overview
- SRKW & NARW Status
- SRKW Measures
- NARW Measures
- Differences
- Similarities
- Broader Considerations



Transport Canada Overview

- Responsible for safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible transportation
- Analyzes, develops and implements actions that reduce the impacts of vessel traffic on the marine environment
- Collaborates with other federal departments and international counterparts, Indigenous groups, multiple stakeholders, and academia



NARW & SRKW Status

North Atlantic right whale (NARW)

- ~336 remaining
- Habitat spans Canadian and U.S. waters on the East Coast
 - Present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in larger numbers April to November
- Key threats include vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear

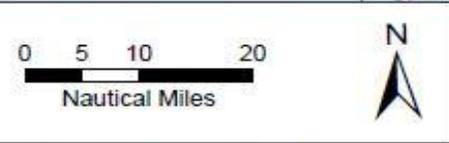
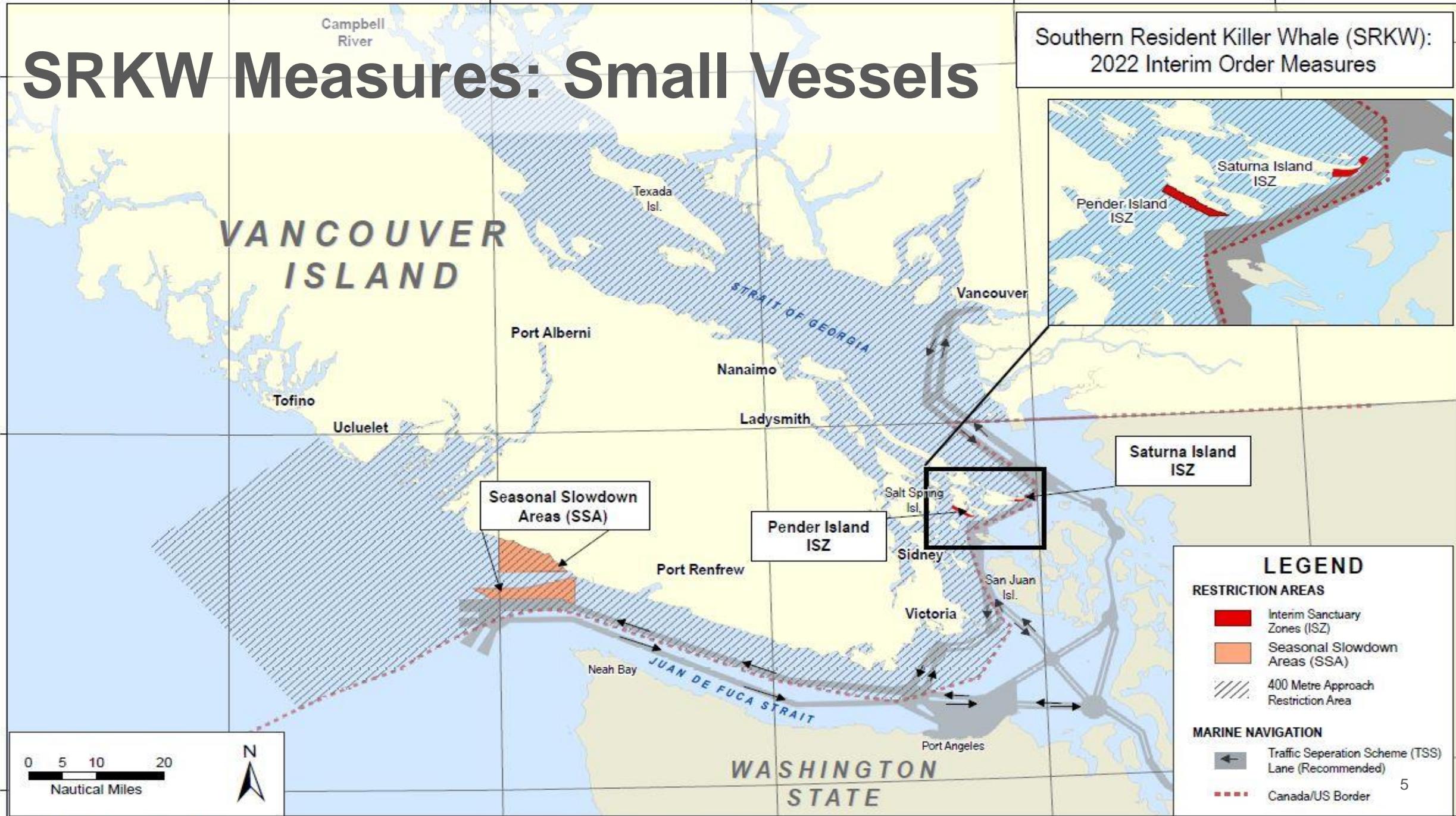
Southern Resident killer whale (SRKW)

- ~73 individuals
- Habitat spans Canadian and U.S. waters on the West Coast
 - Present in Salish Sea/Juan de Fuca Strait June-November
- Key threats include prey availability, contaminants and underwater vessel noise



SRKW Measures: Small Vessels

Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW):
2022 Interim Order Measures



LEGEND

RESTRICTION AREAS

- Interim Sanctuary Zones (ISZ)
- Seasonal Slowdown Areas (SSA)
- 400 Metre Approach Restriction Area

MARINE NAVIGATION

- Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) Lane (Recommended)
- Canada/US Border

SRKW Measures: Large Vessels



NARW Measures

QUÉBEC

NEWFOUNDLAND

GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

NEW BRUNSWICK

P.E.I.
Charlottetown

Sept-Îles

Gaspé

ANTICOSTI ISLAND

Cap-aux-Meules

A

B

C

D

SMA-1

SMA-2

E

LEGEND

- Northern Static Zone
- Southern Static Zone
- Seasonal Management Areas (SMA)
- Dynamic Shipping Zones (A, B, C, D, E)
- Trial Voluntary Slowdown Zone
- Restricted Area
- 20 Fathom Shallow Water Protocol Line



0 25 50 100

Nautical Miles

Similarities in Management Approach



Vessel Management

- Speed reductions
- Vessel exclusion zones
- Seasonal, voluntary, mandatory, dynamic measures

Whale Monitoring

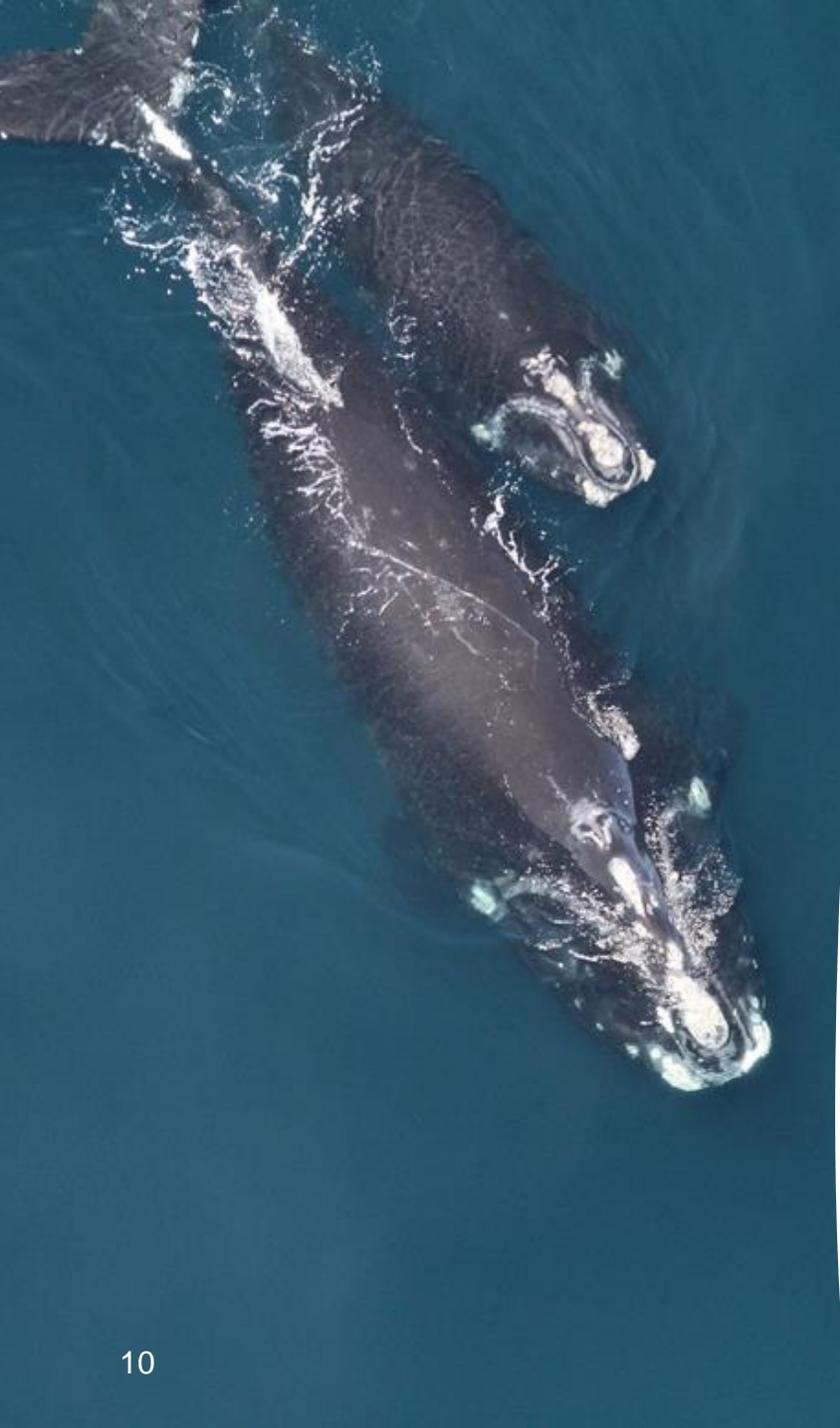
- Tracking whale presence/location

Engagement

- Collaborative and iterative approach
- Strong stakeholder participation
- Canada/US alignment, where possible

Factors Driving Differences

Differences	SRKW	NARW
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in pods • Fast moving • Minimal surface activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate in large groups • Slow moving • Active at surface
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater noise is highly complex • All vessels contribute to physical disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel strikes: separate ships from whales or reduce speed • Larger vessels are biggest risk
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 8M people live within an hour drive of Salish Sea • Important recreational fisheries • Important ferry traffic • 3 ports, all larger than port of Montreal • Shared Canada-U.S. waters • Dozens of rights holders (First nations and other Indigenous groups) • Largely mandatory pilotage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian waters • No mandatory pilotage • Multiple smaller ports of call for cruise ships • Fewer pleasure craft and small vessels • Unprecedented aerial surveillance



Broader Considerations for Managing Vessel Traffic

International

- Large vessel navigation regulated internationally
- Vessel design and construction to international standards
- Limited scope to act unilaterally outside territorial waters

Continued and Growing Need for Shipping

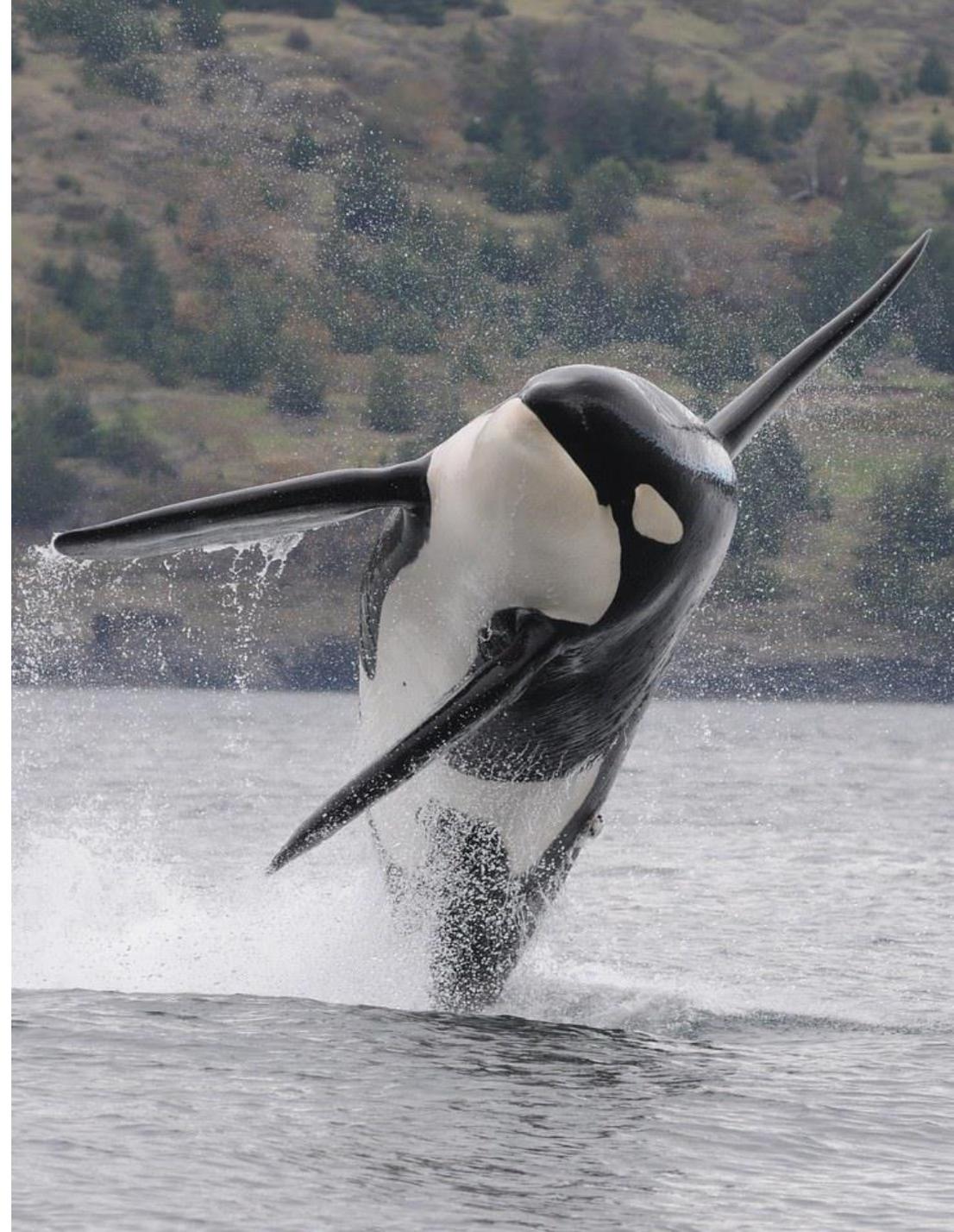
- Key drivers of the economy
- Necessary for other marine activities
 - Fishing, construction, research, navigation, etc.
- Most GHG efficient means of transporting large quantities over great distances

Access to fishing and marine space needs to be accommodated

Broader Considerations Continued

Whale protection measures in the context of:

- **Supply chain issues**
- **New GHG, air emission and discharge requirements and regulations**
- **Industry need for predictability (especially cruise industry)**
- **Economic development projects and growth**
- **Changing climate – changing whale distribution**
- **Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, rights, marine territories...**



Questions?



Photo credit: Bedford Whaling Museum (Regina Asmutis-Silvia/WDC)

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