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## Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections: The Need to Address Increased Vessel Traffic Impacts to Southern Resident Killer Whales

Level Pratt

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Pratt, Level, "Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections: The Need to Address Increased Vessel Traffic Impacts to Southern Resident Killer Whales" (2022). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 139.  
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2022ssec/allsessions/139>

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# Southern Resident Killer Whales and Vessels: Recent Science and Future Trends

**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference**  
**April 27, 2022**

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**Friends** *of the*  
**San Juans**

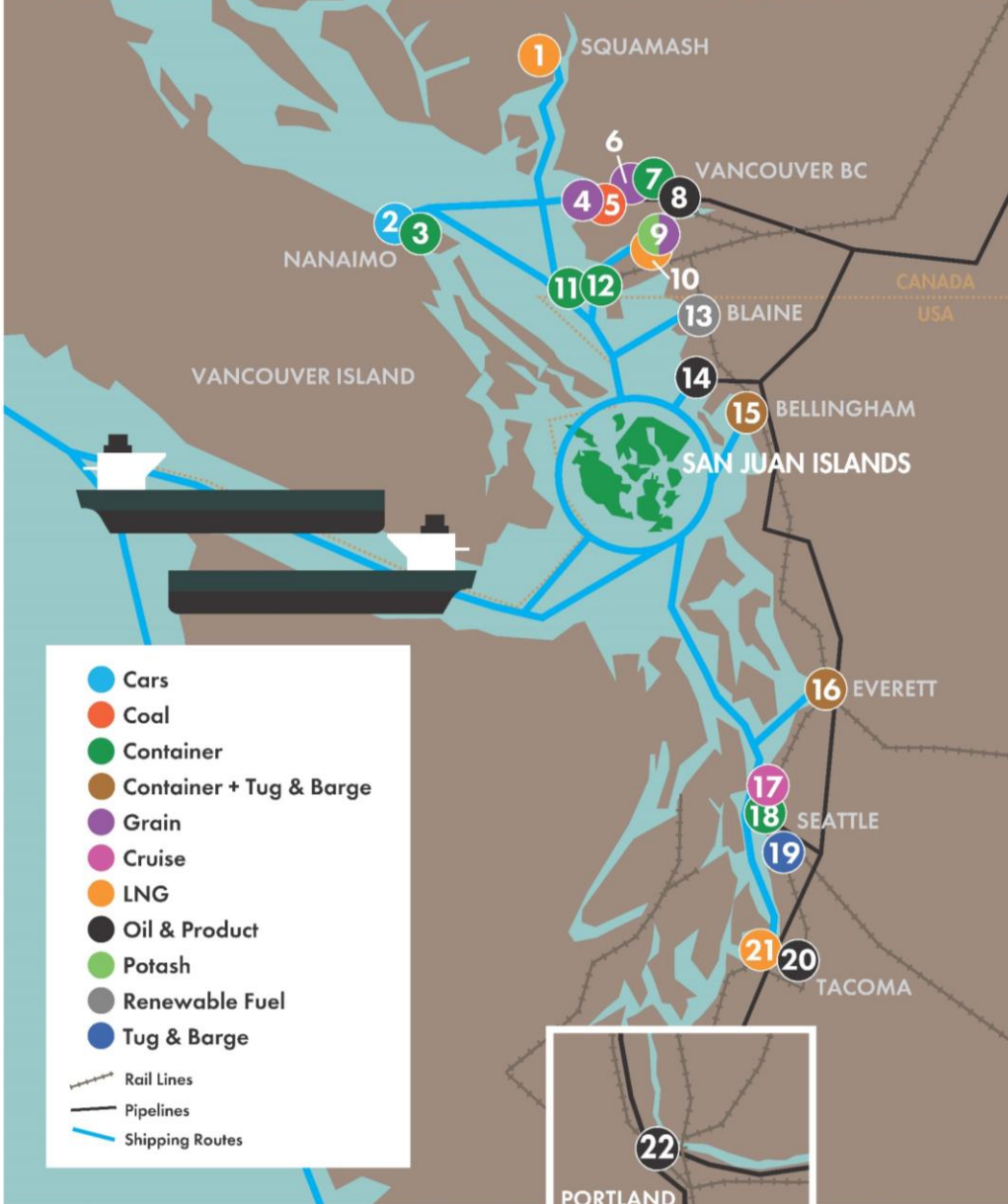


Graphic credit: Map of the Salish Sea & Surrounding Basin, Stefan Freelan, WWU, 2009

Info sources:

- <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/salish-sea-soc-action-plan-2021-2024.pdf> and
- [https://cedar.wwu.edu/salish\\_pubs/1/](https://cedar.wwu.edu/salish_pubs/1/) and
- <https://www.oecd.org/ocean/topics/ocean-shipment/>

# SALISH SEA VESSEL TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS



November 2021 • San Juan Islanders for Safe Shipping



## PROJECTED NEW ANNUAL VESSEL TRANSITS

1	Woodfibre LNG	80
2	Vehicle Processing Centre	171
3	DP World	TBD
4	Fibreco Export	18
5	Neptune Terminals	31
6	G3 Terminal	224
7	Centerm Container	130
8	Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion	696
9	Fraser Surrey Docks	160
9	Fraser Surrey Docks	364
10	Tilbury Marine Jetty Project	136
11	Roberts Bank Terminal 2	520
12	GCT Deltaport	104
13	BP Refinery	TBD
14	Phillips 66 Refinery	TBD
15	M-5 Coastal Connector	TBD
16	Everett Terminals	TBD
17	Seattle Pier 46	TBD
18	Seattle Terminal 5	TBD
19	SeaTac Marine Services	TBD
20	Seaport Sound	TBD
21	Puget Sound Energy LNG	TBD
22	Zenith Energy	TBD

TOTAL PROJECTED NEW TRANSITS	2,634 + TBD
TOTAL 2020 TRANSITS	10,480
TOTAL 2020 + NEW TRANSITS	13,114 + TBD

For more info see reverse side and <https://sanjuans.org/ssvtp>

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increase in vessel size +

increase in vessel size +

increase in vessel size +

increase in vessel size

**+25% increase in large, ocean-going commercial vessel traffic**

**+ To Be Determined**

TOTAL PROJECTED NEW TRANSITS	2,634 + TBD
TOTAL 2020 TRANSITS	10,480
TOTAL 2020 + NEW TRANSITS	13,114 + TBD

Sources: Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections Nov. 2021 report: [https://sanjuans.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections\\_11-12-2021.pdf](https://sanjuans.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Salish_Sea_Vessel_Traffic_Projections_11-12-2021.pdf) Infographic: [https://sanjuans.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections Infographic Nov 2021.pdf](https://sanjuans.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Salish_Sea_Vessel_Traffic_Projections_Infographic_Nov_2021.pdf)

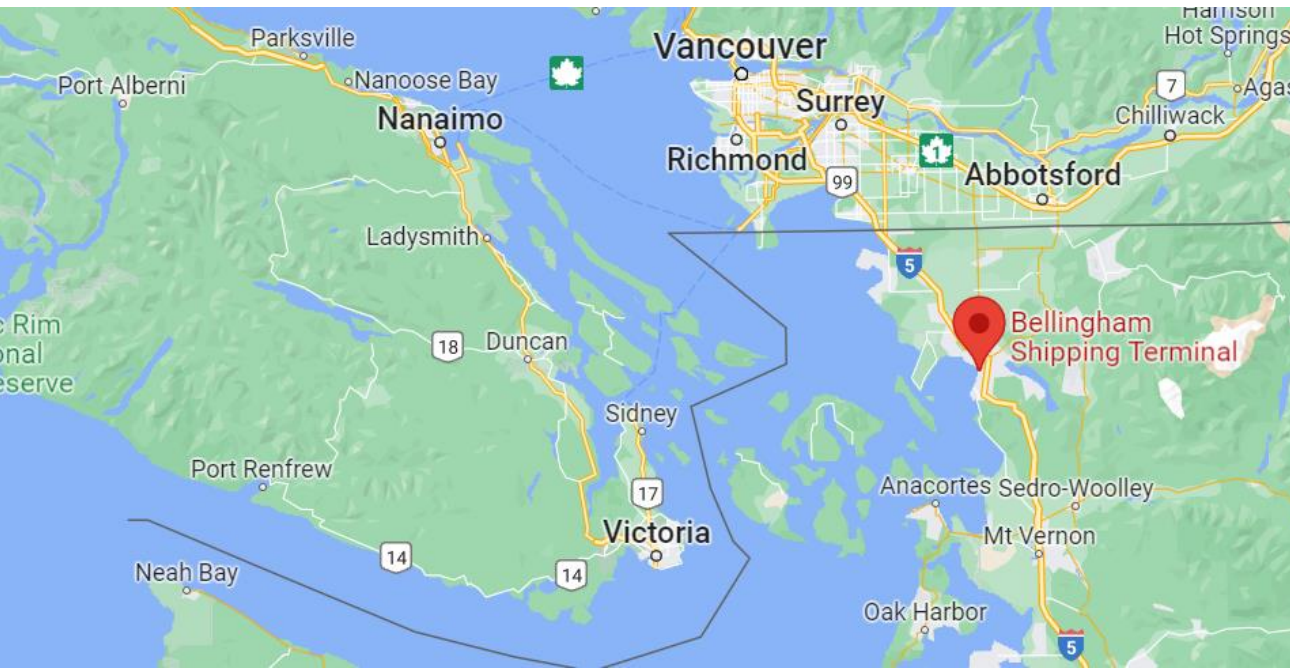
# #15 M-5 Coastal Connector, Bellingham Shipping Terminal

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces a New Marine Highway and Six Marine Highway Designations

Thursday, August 19, 2021

## M-5 Coastal Connector (California/Oregon/Washington):

This project designation will support a service transporting goods on barges between Bellingham, Washington; Southern Oregon; and San Diego, California. This project would provide regional cargo interests with additional modal options, reducing truck traffic along Interstate 5.

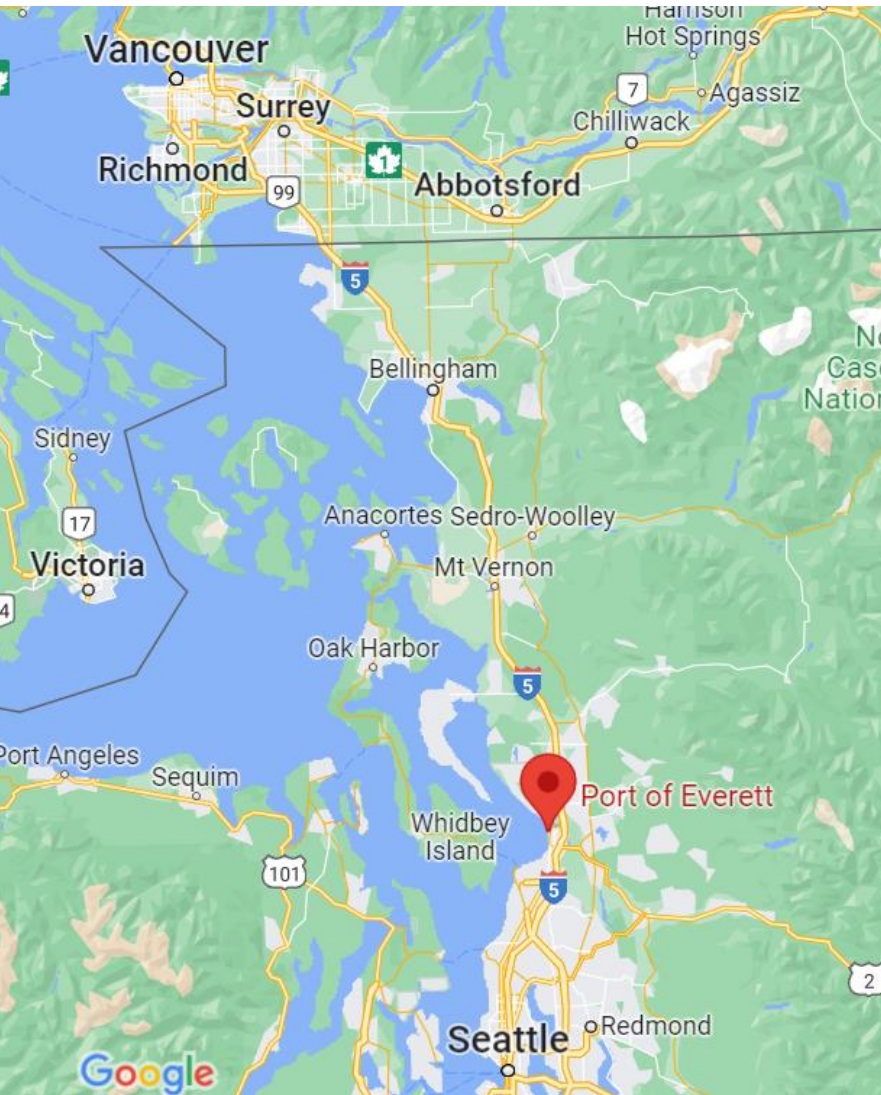


Sources:

<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/newsroom/press-releases/us-department-transportation-announces-new-marine-highway-and-six-marine> and <https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2020/10/14/port-secures-6-85-million-federal-grant-in-support-of-working-waterfront/>

January 14, 2019

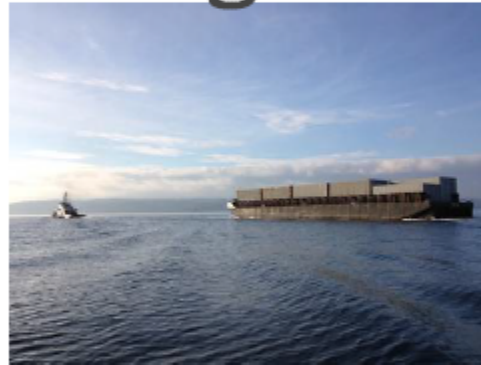
## #16 Everett Terminals



Source:

<https://www.maritimeprofessional.com/news/port-everett-earns-marad-short-341648>

# Port of Everett Earns Marad Short Sea Shipping Designation



*A local barge underway near the port of Everett (CREDIT: port of Everett)*

*The Port of Everett has achieved another vital step in reducing congestion on the I-5 corridor while moving more freight in the region. The Port was notified this month that it received designation by the U.S. Secretary of*

*Transportation as a Federal Maritime Administration Marine Highway Project for the Puget Sound Container on Barge Service under the America's Marine Highway Program.*

# Ensure compliance with U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA)

## U.S. & Canadian Partnerships



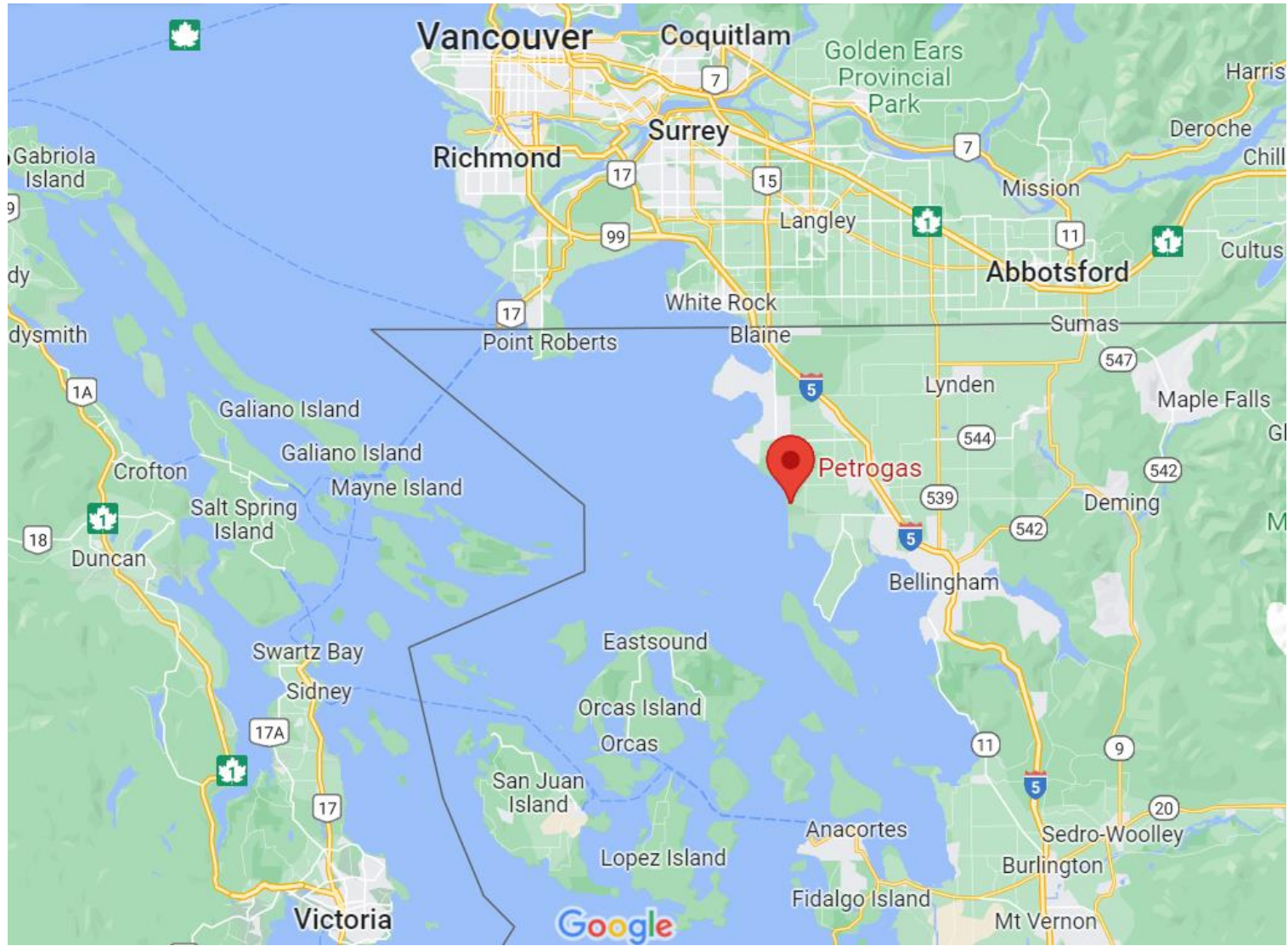
- Current authorization allows the Marine Highway Program to interact with Canadian Ports in the Great Lakes on the St Lawrence Seaway System (M-90)
- MARAD is exploring options to interact with Canadian Ports within the Salish Sea/ Puget Sound region
  - There is significant freight movement at land border crossings
  - Good potential for congestion relief & other public benefits using the M-95
  - Will need legislative change to the Program to implement



# Whatcom officials in 'uncharted territory' after facility accused of unpermitted expansion

BY YSABELLE KEMPE

JANUARY 03, 2022 5:00 AM



Source:  
<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article256827867.html>

# Petrogas LPG Export Facility Permit Application

**REVISED**  
SEPA Environmental Checklist

Case #: SEP2016-00004

WHATCOM COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUG 05 2016

## A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Petrogas Storage Terminal  
Ferndale Energy Efficiency &  
Compressor Replacement Project –  
Equipment Repair/Replacement ✓
2. Name of applicant: AltaGas Facilities (U.S.) Inc.  
Applicant phone number: (360) 384-1701  
Applicant address: 4100 Unick Road  
Ferndale, WA 98248 ✓

RECEIVED

Reviewed by  
NAS  
8/24/16

The project consists of the replacement of two aging compressors used to refrigerate products stored at the terminal that are at the end of their economic life. To prepare for the installation of the new compressors, infrastructure necessary to provide services to the compressors will require repair or replacement in advance of the equipment arriving at the site. The equipment being replaced consists of two 1,100 horsepower reciprocating compressors driven by natural gas engines that were originally installed in 1994. The project will not increase the total number or frequency of rail cars to and from the terminal. Emission control equipment and features to enhance the energy efficiency of the new compressors, including inter-stage heat exchangers, have been implemented to reduce the power needed and reduce emissions generated by the compression equipment. The following key items comprise this project:

No increase  
in marine  
vessel traffic  
is proposed  
see 8/23/16  
letter in  
file.

Phase 1 – Within existing operations area

# #14 Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery - Proposal to Construct New Storage Tanks



Photo credit: Bellingham Herald; Sources: <https://sanjuans.org/phillips-66/>  
<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article259433814.html> and  
[https://www.goskagit.com/news/environment/nonprofit-scores-court-victory-in-bid-to-protect-southern-orca-whales/article\\_57c6bea0-cce8-54dd-bc83-d3b166c526da.html](https://www.goskagit.com/news/environment/nonprofit-scores-court-victory-in-bid-to-protect-southern-orca-whales/article_57c6bea0-cce8-54dd-bc83-d3b166c526da.html) and <https://kgmi.com/podcasts/lovel-pratt-phillips-66-and-orcas/>

# Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Southern Resident  
Orca Task Force  
Recommendation 27:  
Determine how permit  
applications in Washington  
State that could increase  
traffic and vessel impacts  
could be required to  
explicitly address potential  
impacts to orcas.

Photo credit: NOAA News May  
14 2015. Sources:  
[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/OrcaTaskForce\\_FinalReportandRecommendations\\_11.07.19.pdf](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/OrcaTaskForce_FinalReportandRecommendations_11.07.19.pdf)



# Potential Solutions re. Project Permitting

Ensure compliance with federal regulations!

Improve federal regulations' protection and recovery of SRKW:

- Require the federal agencies that oversee shipping to apply for permits under the ESA and SARA.
- Require NOAA Fisheries and Fisheries and Oceans Canada & the Parks Canada Agency to develop regulations governing ship traffic in the Salish Sea.

Improve Washington State Environmental Policy Act:

- Implement Recommendation 27.

Conduct a transboundary vessel traffic cumulative impact study and/or carrying capacity analysis:

- What amount of vessel traffic and associated cumulative impacts are ecologically and culturally sustainable?