



**THE NORTHWEST
SEAPORT ALLIANCE**
Gateway to Solutions

Quiet Sound funding

Position

The NWSA supports \$700,000 in funding for the Quiet Sound program managed by Maritime Blue to reduce the noise impacts of vessels on Southern Resident Orcas.

Background

Quiet Sound is a proactive and collaborative program to reduce noise impacts to Southern Resident Killer Whales. Specifically, Quiet Sound is working in partnership with the tribal governments, state and federal agencies, scientific researchers, nonprofits, and other maritime industry organizations to initiate an advanced whale alert system and vessel slow down initiative. Similar initiatives in Canada have reduced underwater sound intensity by up to 55% in key foraging areas within southern resident killer whale critical habitat.

Large vessels and vessel operations centers use the Whale Report Alert System, providing real-time, geographically specific alerts of whale sightings. These alerts enable vessels to take measures that are safe for humans and for the whales, such as slowing down, stopping, posting a lookout, or taking an alternate route.

Washington Maritime Blue, a nonprofit, provides administrative and financial support.



Funding

Ongoing funding is necessary for the continuation of the Quiet Sound program. Dedicated funding is required for the administration of the program, overhead, consulting contracts, and support for the work groups. An estimated annual budget is provided



below. Quiet Sound requests \$700,000 for the 23-25 biennium from the Legislature to continue to develop safe and data-driven whale protection programs for large vessels in our waters. This is an increase from the \$500,000 for the 21-23 biennium but the state's overall share of the cost of Quiet Sound will shrink because of matching funds coming in from the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma and the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the federal government, and the philanthropic sector.

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