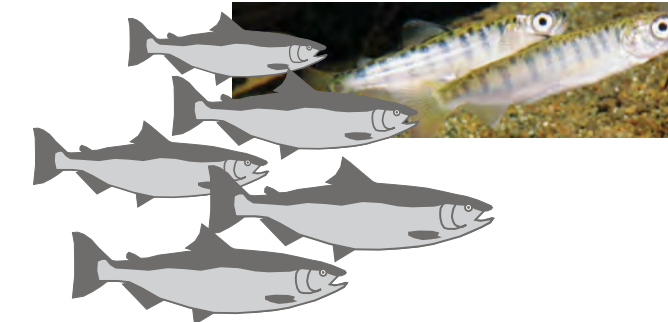
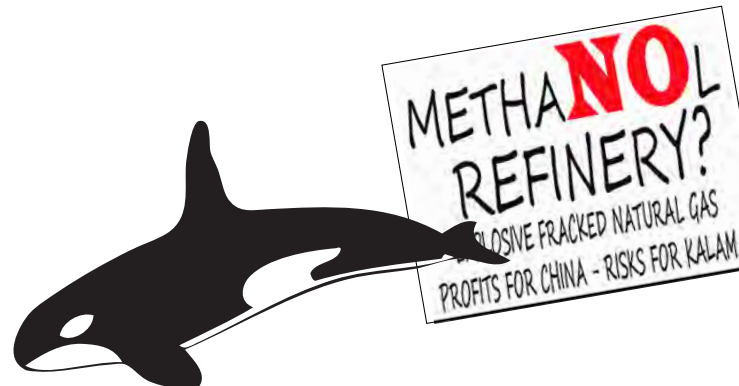
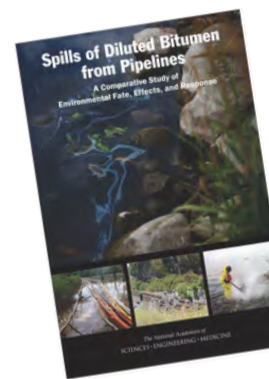


SAFE SHIPPERS 2016 – A YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY 2016

Early Jan The National Academy of Sciences released the report, “Spills of Diluted Bitumen from Pipelines: A Comparative Study of Environmental Fate, Effects, and Response,” detailing the environmental damages from and the challenges of responding to diluted bitumen spills as compared with spills of conventional crude oil.

Mid-Jan J55 – Southern Resident Killer Whale born, sex unknown.

Jan 22 More than 250,000 public comments were submitted to Washington’s Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Tesoro Savage oil export terminal in Vancouver WA.

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) gave oral testimony before Canada’s National Energy Board (NEB) regarding the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion project. Ecology was the only US state or federal agency to be granted intervenor status by the NEB. Safe Shippers submitted letters asking them to speak up strongly for the protection of the Salish Sea.

Feb 25 J55 – missing and presumed dead.

MARCH

Mar 18 Skagit County requires environmental review for Tesoro Refinery Anacortes plans to upgrade refinery for the manufacture and export of xylene via tankers to Asia.

Mar 30 L95 – 20-year-old male found dead near Esperanza Inlet BC

APRIL

Apr 15 Scoping comments submitted on Tesoro Anacortes proposed xylene plant. Safe Shippers are concerned about increased shipping and the particular toxicity of xylene. We asked that the scoping area extend beyond Anacortes to include the Salish Sea and study potential impacts to orcas. Draft EIS due in spring 2017.

Apr 18 Comments submitted on SEPA DEIS for proposed Kalama Methanol Plant that would be the world’s largest methanol refinery, converting natural gas to methanol for export to China. Safe Shippers concerns: increased shipping, oil spills, air pollution, ocean acidification, impacts to Columbia River salmon and therefore orcas. Air quality permit comments due February 6, 2017.

MAY

May 9 The Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) delivered an historic decision to deny necessary permits for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, a coal export facility at Xwe’chi’eXen, also known as Cherry Point . The ACoE agreed with the Lummi Nation that building the coal terminal would have adverse impacts upon the Lummi’s fishing rights and way of life.

May 26 Bankrupt coal giant Arch Coal walks away from \$60 million investment in coal exports.

JUNE

Jun 13 Over 215,000 comments submitted to Cowlitz County and Ecology on the SEPA DEIS for the Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export terminal at Longview WA. Safe Shippers care because of bunkering vessel traffic in the Salish Sea, climate impacts from the coal’s CO2 emissions, and threats to salmon and therefore orcas.

Jun 21 Coal critics outnumber supporters at Seattle hearing on BLM leases.

JULY - AUGUST

Jul 22 Comments submitted on Ecology’s rulemaking on Chapter 173-182 WAC Oil Spill Contingency Plan – Pipelines. Safes Shippers care because of potential devastating impacts from pipeline oil spills to downstream and shoreline habitat and species.

Aug 3 J14 – 42-year-old female last sighted in Haro Strait.

OCTOBER

Oct 4 The DEIS is issued for the Shell Anacortes Refinery crude-by-rail unloading facility.

Oct 6 Shell Anacortes withdraws permit applications for the crude-by-rail project. Environmental review stopped.

Oct 18-19 2016 Salish Sea Oil Spill Risk Mitigation Workshop identified prioritized prevention-focused risk mitigation measures. The top three:
1. Escort tank vessels including oil barges and Articulated Tug Barges in Puget Sound (read more about the need for these tug escort requirements in the report “Tar Sands/Dilbit Crude Oil Movements Within the Salish Sea”)
2. Create a Canada/US Transboundary Marine Safety Forum
3. Pre-position a multi-mission emergency response towing vessel (ERTV) for Haro Strait/Boundary Pass

NOVEMBER

Oct 19 J28 –23-year old female declared missing, Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Oct 23 J54 –10-month old male (son of J28) last seen in Haro Strait.

Oct 24 - Dec 8 Scoping meetings held for Columbia River System EIS to study the option of removing four Lower Snake River dams to enhance salmon recovery. Comment deadline is February 6, 2017.

DECEMBER

Nov 18 Comments submitted on the SEPA Cherry Point Environmental Aquatic Reserve Boundary Modification. 45 acres that had been intended for the Gateway Pacific coal terminal are being considered for inclusion into the reserve. Safe Shippers ask for this land to be preserved indefinitely for the health of the Salish Sea.

Nov 20 The Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections is updated!

Nov 22 The Northwest Area Committee (that oversees the Northwest Area Contingency Plan – how the Pacific Northwest Region complies with federal oil spill response regulations) released the dispersant authorization zones map that includes the extensive Case-by-Case Dispersant Use Zone in the US portion of the Salish Sea.

JANUARY 2017

Jan 3 The DNR expands the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve to include the tidelands that had been set aside for the construction of the Gateway Pacific Terminal.

Jan 11 Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project receives environmental approval from the province of British Columbia.

Jan 12 Washington State Supreme Court decision blocks remaining Grays Harbor crude-by-rail terminal – a project that planned to move millions of gallons of crude oil out of Grays Harbor and through Washington’s open ocean every year. From the Earthjustice press release. Safe Shippers commented on this project in May 2014 and November 2015 because of the potential transporting of crude oil by vessel to the US refineries in the Salish Sea.

JANUARY 2017

Dec 20 J34 –18-year old male, found deceased from blunt-force trauma, Sechelt BC.

Dec 31 J2 – female, over 100 years old, last seen in Haro Strait October 2016, is declared missing.

Nov 29 The Government of Canada grants approval for Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain Expansion Project.

JANUARY 2017

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Jan 12 NOAA considers establishing a whale protection zone to expedite recovery of our endangered SRKWs. Public comments due April 13, 2017.

Jan 16 Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale, introduces SB 5171. Concerning certain uses of state-owned aquatic lands, that would reverse the DNR’s order that expanded the boundaries of the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve. Safe Shippers contact senators on the Natural Resources and Parks Committee asking them to oppose to this bill.

Jan 16 Over 400 Islanders rally as Salish Sea Stands together with our Canadian neighbors against the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion.