



Boater Education & Monitoring Program

NOAA Killer Whale Protection Workshop
Roche Harbor March 28, 2013



Outline

- description of Soundwatch activities
- 2012 season summary
- vessel & incident trends
- compare before/after 2011 regulation





Promoting Responsible Boater and Kayaker Behavior Around Marine Wildlife



On Shore



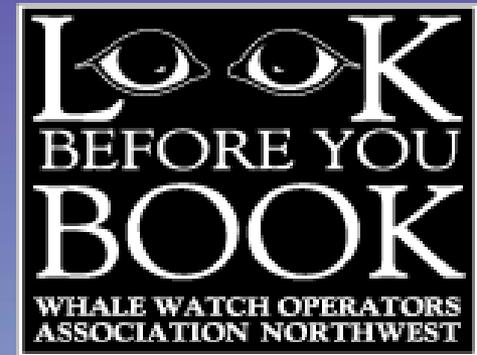
On the Water



Kayaker Code of Conduct & BeWhaleWise

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Crafted by
Pacific Whale Watch Association
and San Juan Island Kayak Association



SJIKA

San Juan Island Kayak
Association

THE WHALE MUSEUM



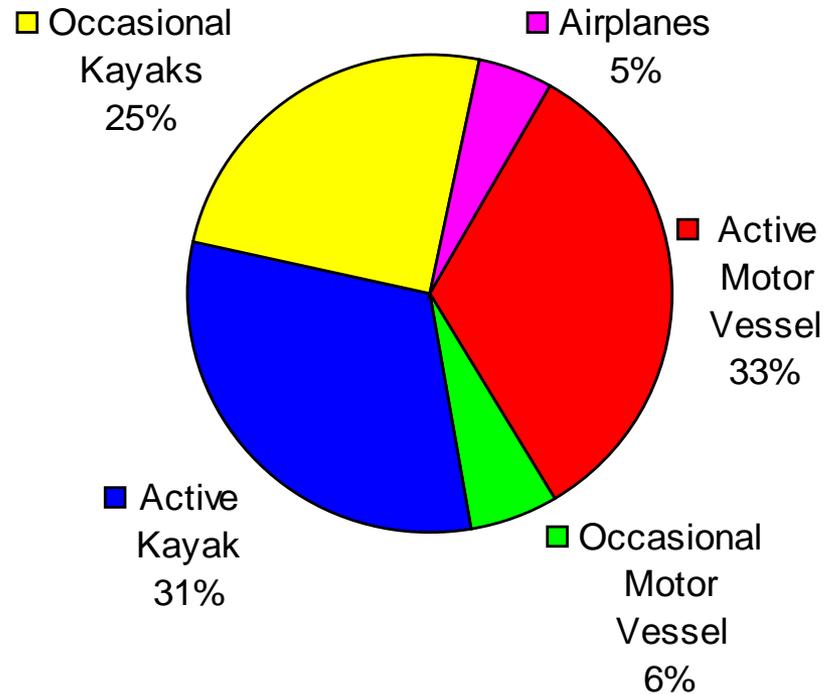
Soundwatch 2012 Accomplishments

- 66 whale days (on-the-water with whales)
- 306.5 hours monitoring vessels around whales (613 vessel counts)
- contacted 525 vessels on-the-water, totaling 1,844 passengers
- Missed most of June (lack of fund\$)
- KELP and shore-based kayak monitoring



2012 Commercial Whale Watch Platforms in the Boundary Waters of Haro Strait

(© 2012, Soundwatch/The Whale Museum)

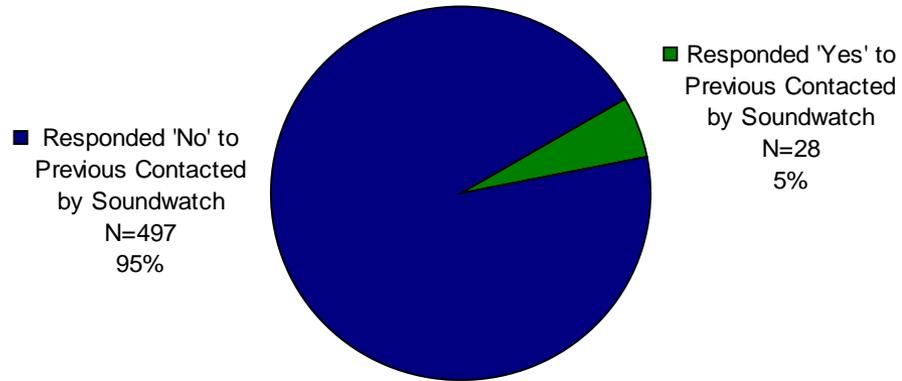


Estimated Active = >1 day/w k

Estimated Occasional = <= 1 day/w k. Or 10 days/season

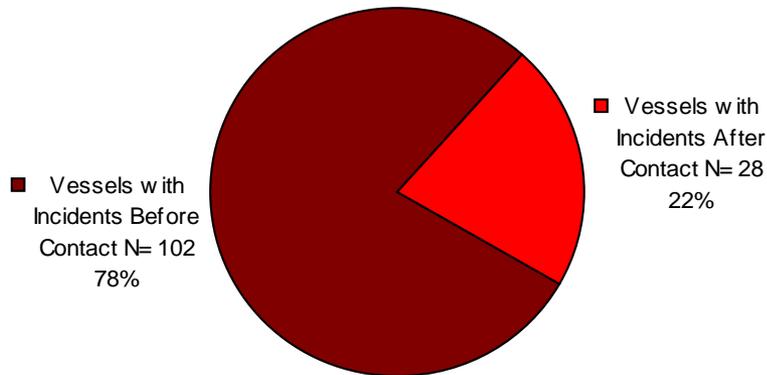


2012 Percentage of Vessel Operators Who Indicated They Had Previous Contact by Soundwatch.
(N=525 Vessels Contacted or 1,844 People)
2012 © Soundwatch/The Whale Museum



2012 Vessels Contacted with Incidents Recorded Before and After Soundwatch Contact by Percentage.

(N=525 Vessels Contacted or 1,844 People)
2012 © Soundwatch/The Whale Museum

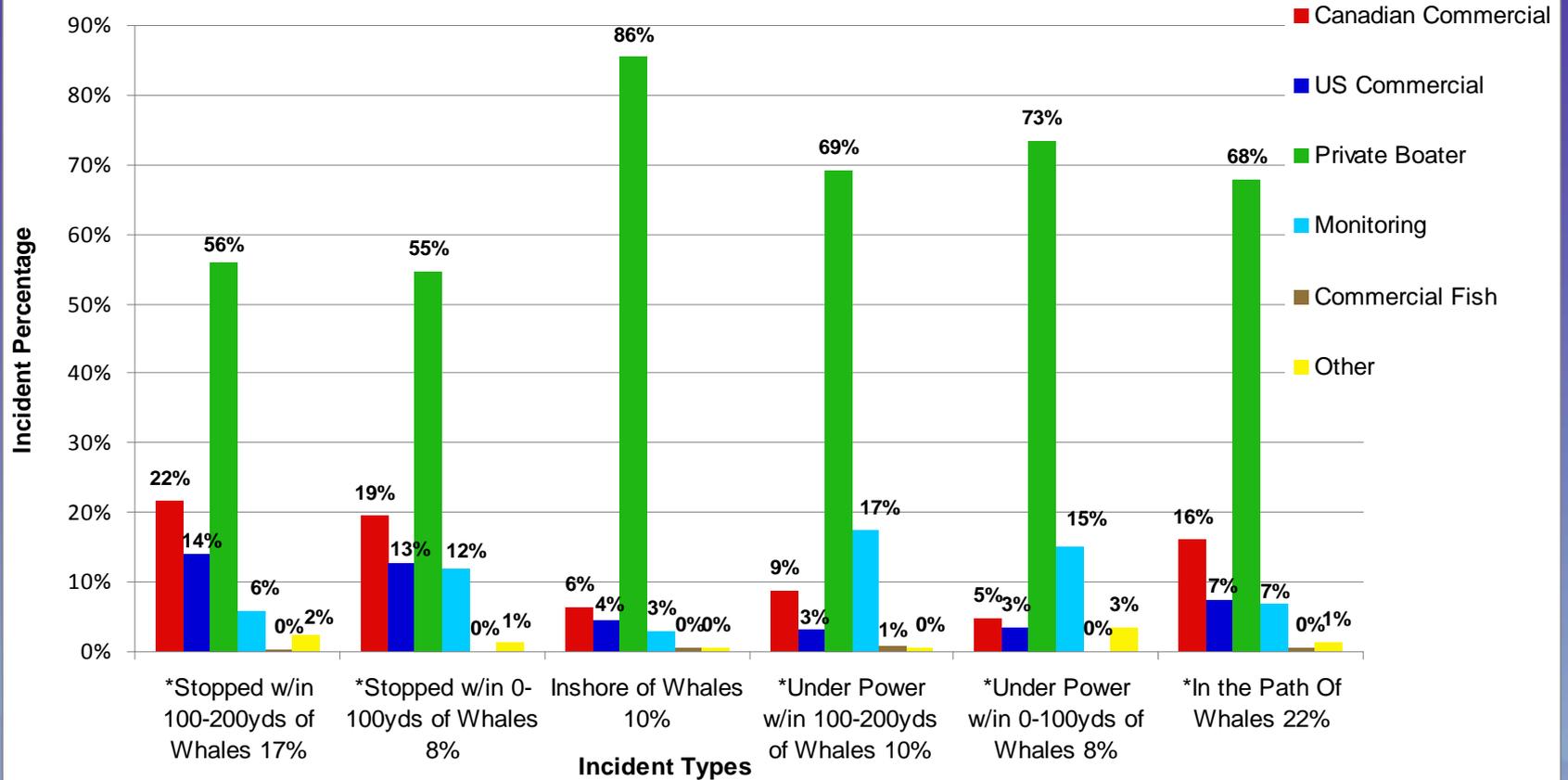


2012 Soundwatch Top Vessel Incidents by Vessel Type

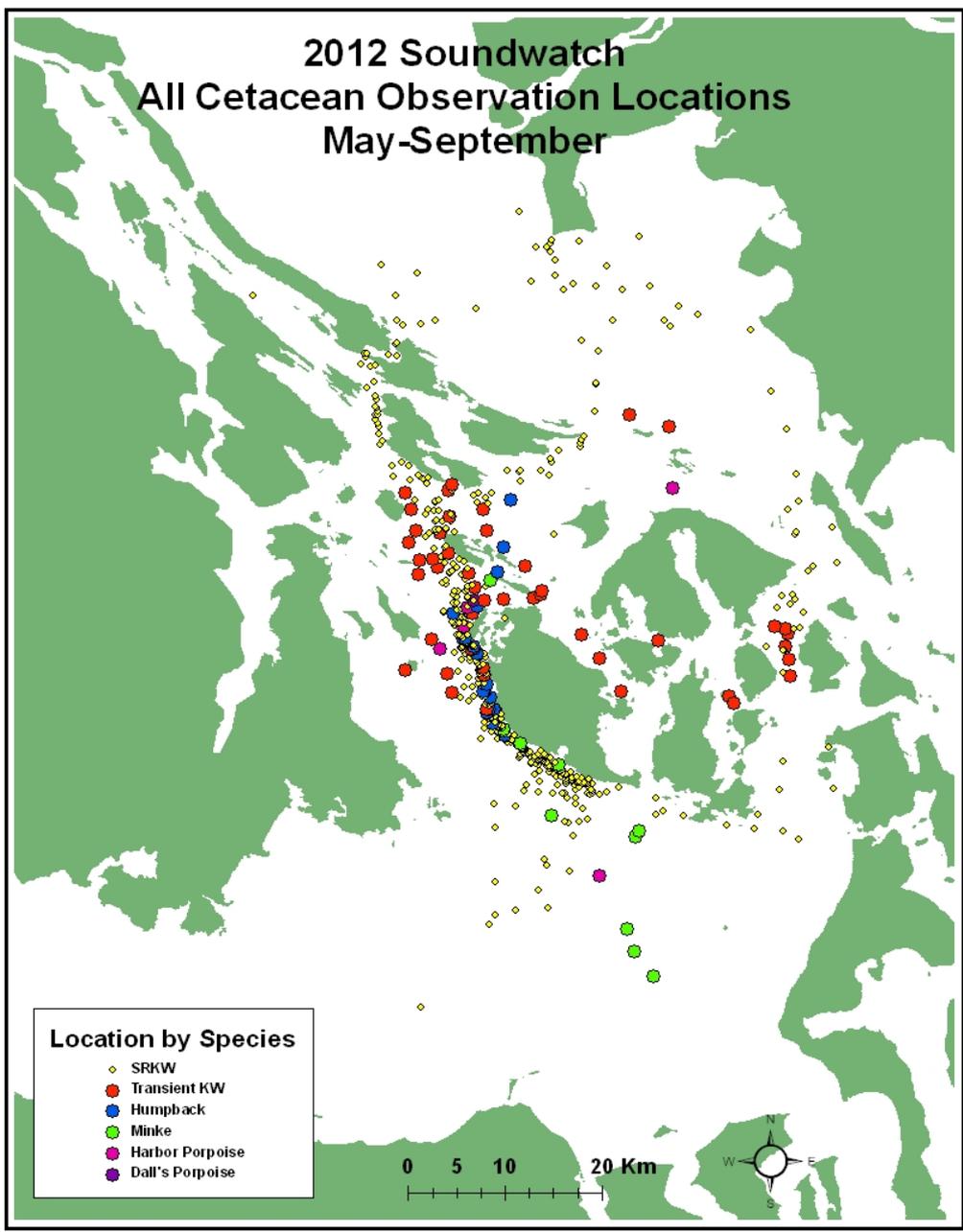
Total Overall Vessel Incidents=2,621

(*Indicates New 2011 Federal Vessel Law)

(© 2012, The Whale Museum)



2012 Soundwatch All Cetacean Observation Locations May-September

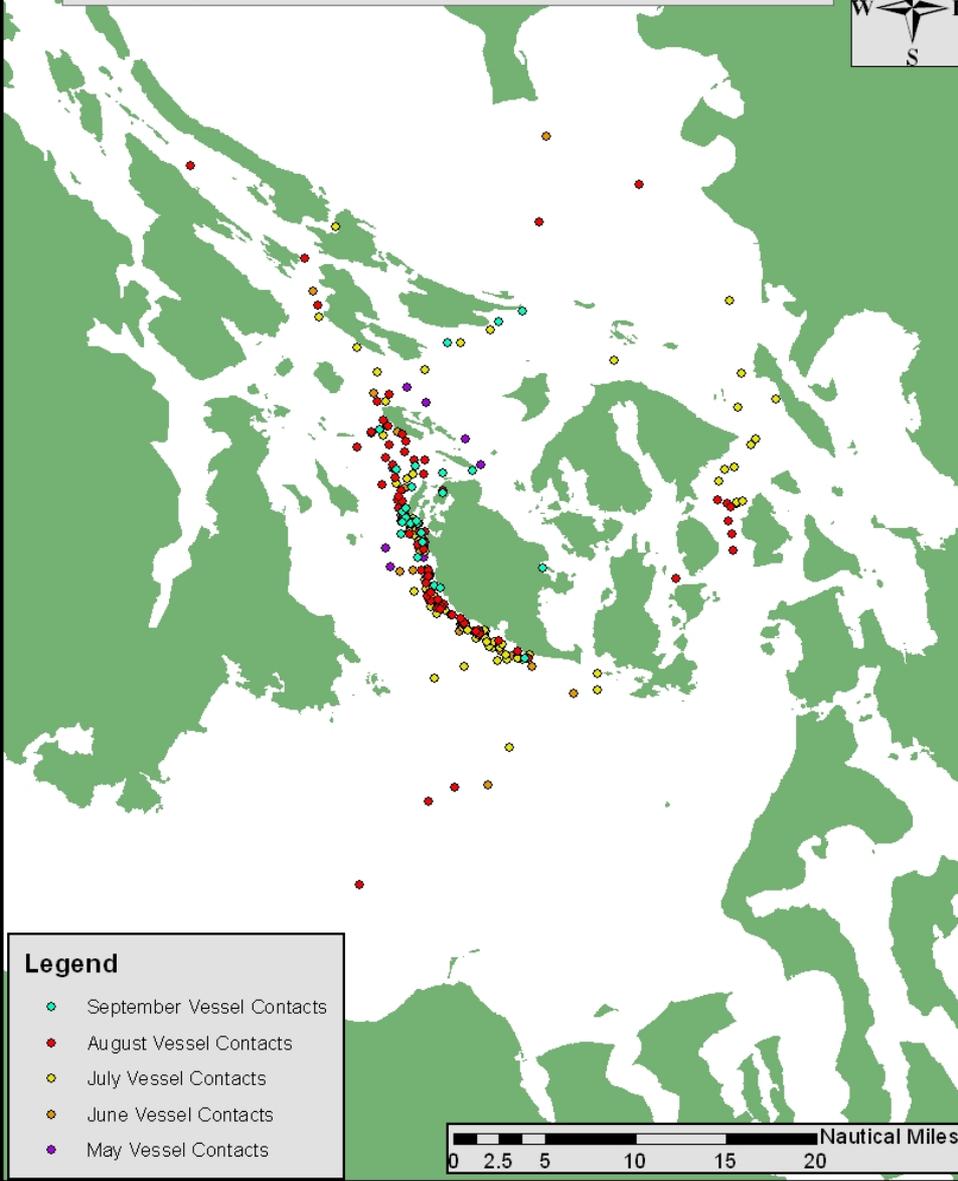


- Location by Species**
- SRKW
 - Transient KW
 - Humpback
 - Minke
 - Harbor Porpoise
 - Dall's Porpoise

0 5 10 20 Km



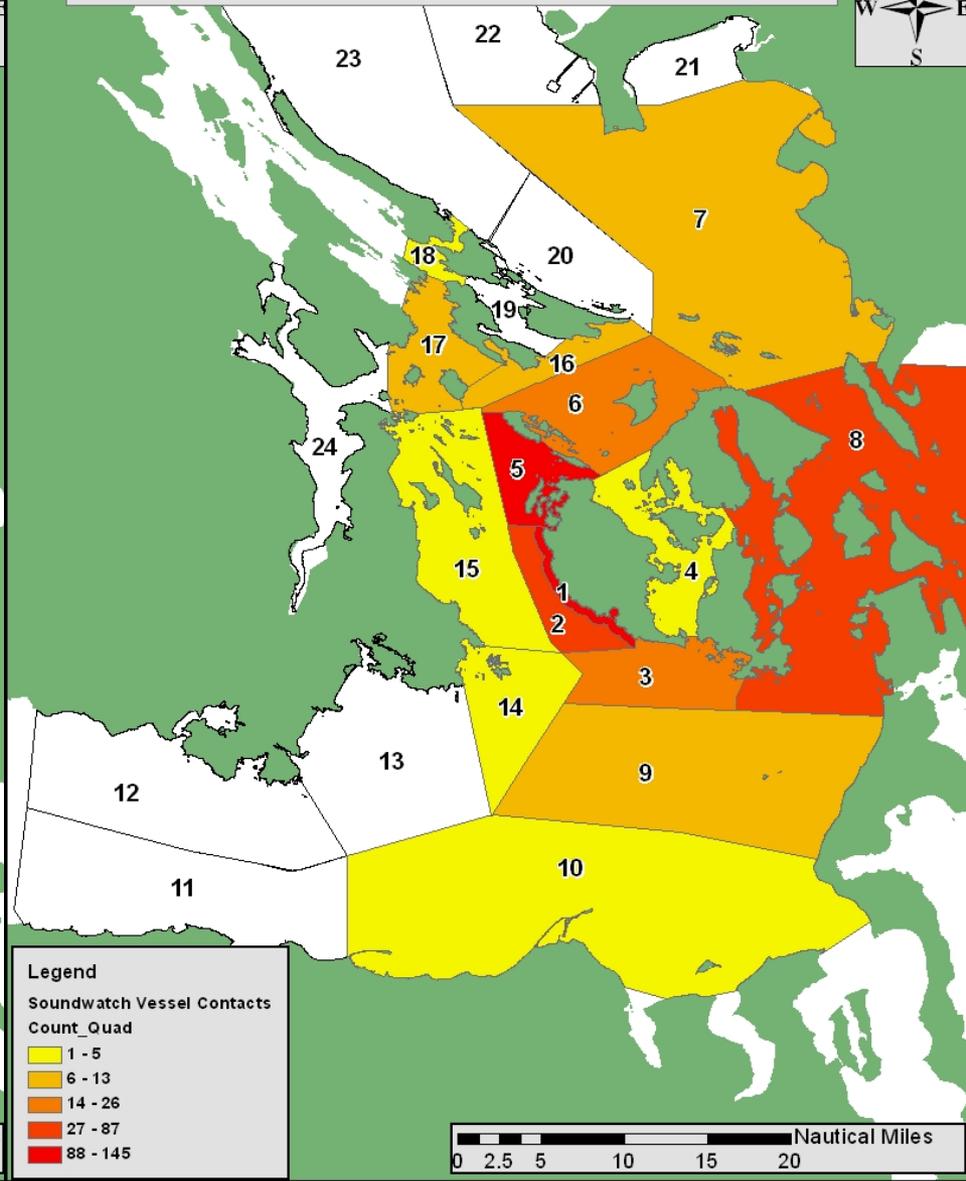
May-September Soundwatch Vessel Contacts



Legend

- September Vessel Contacts
- August Vessel Contacts
- July Vessel Contacts
- June Vessel Contacts
- May Vessel Contacts

May-September Soundwatch Vessel Contacts

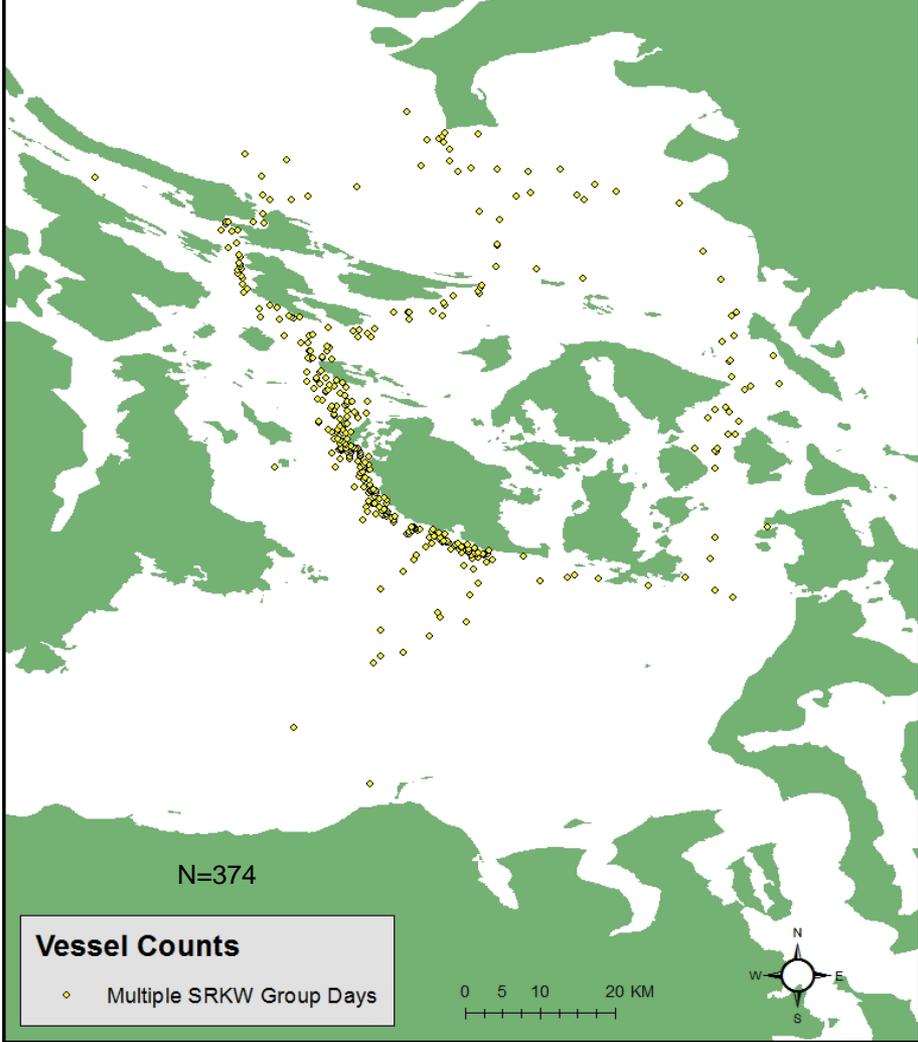


Legend

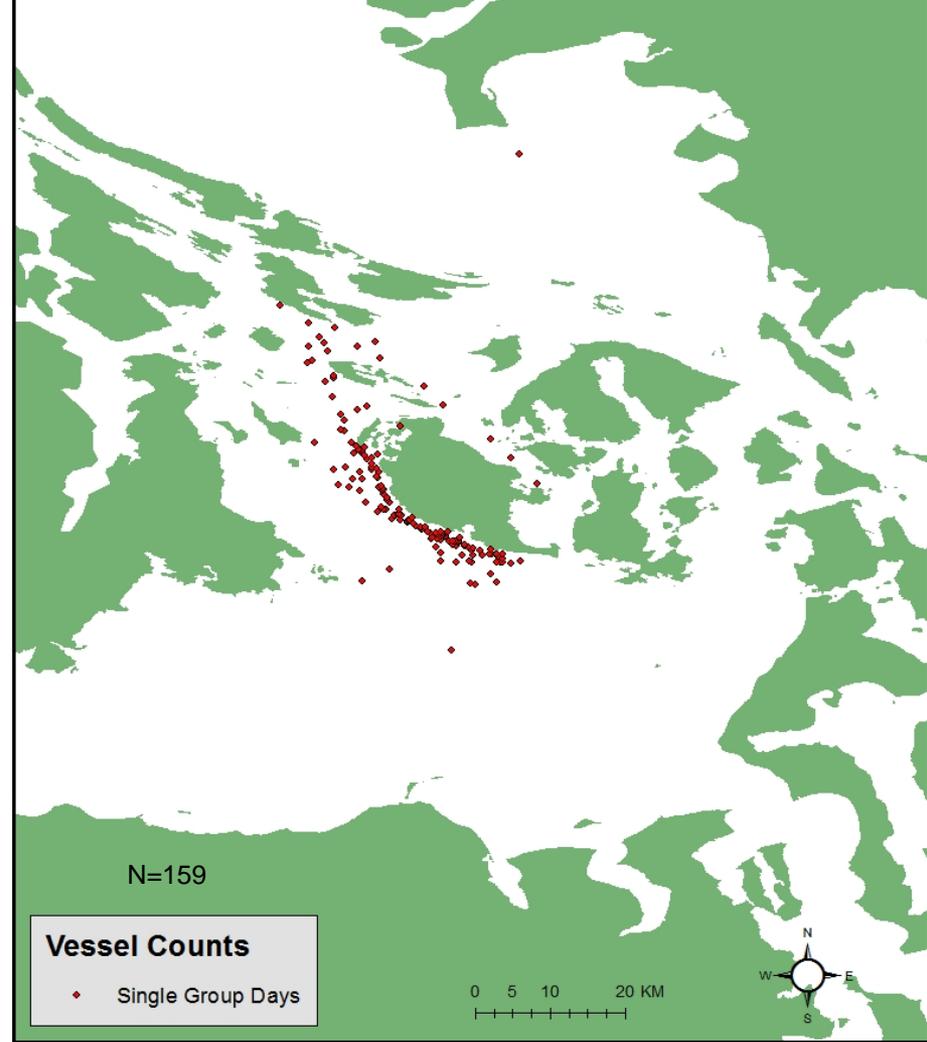
- Soundwatch Vessel Contacts**
Count_Quad
- 1 - 5
 - 6 - 13
 - 14 - 26
 - 27 - 87
 - 88 - 145



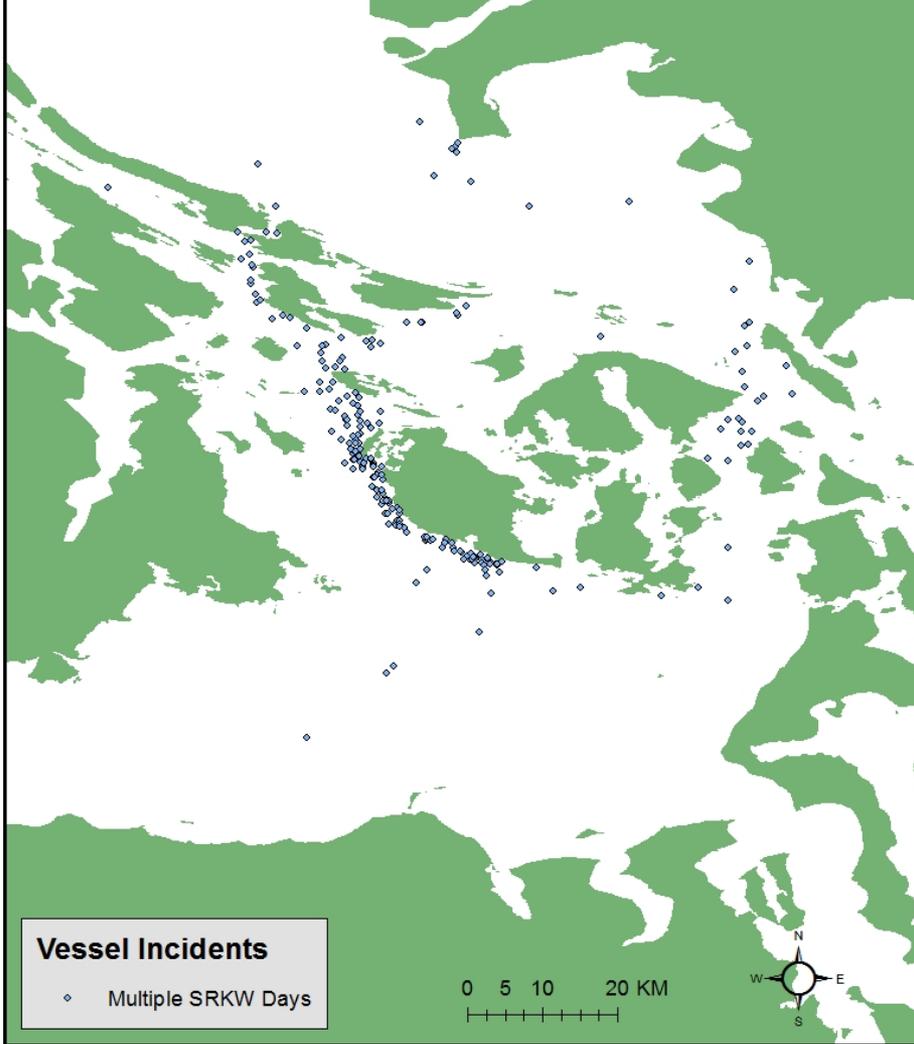
**Vessel Counts on Multiple Group Days (SRKW)
Soundwatch 2012
May-September**



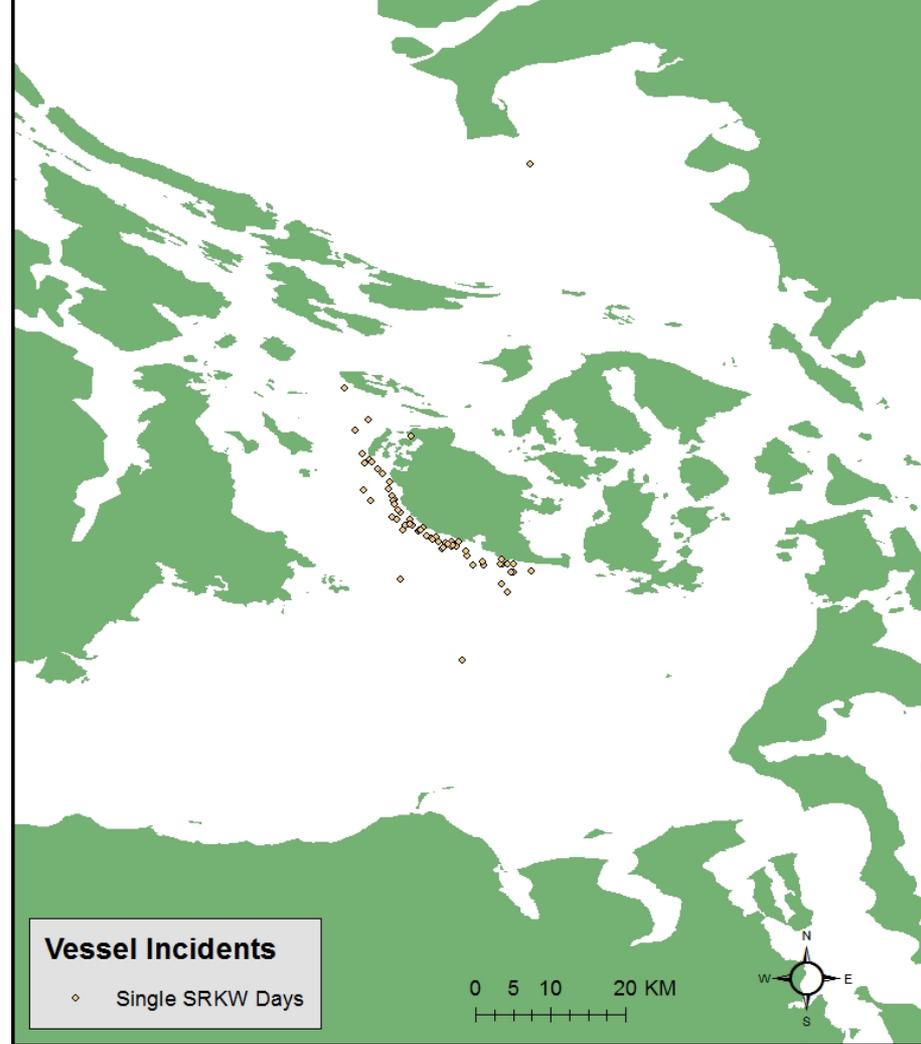
**Vessel Counts on Single Group Days (SRKW)
Soundwatch 2012
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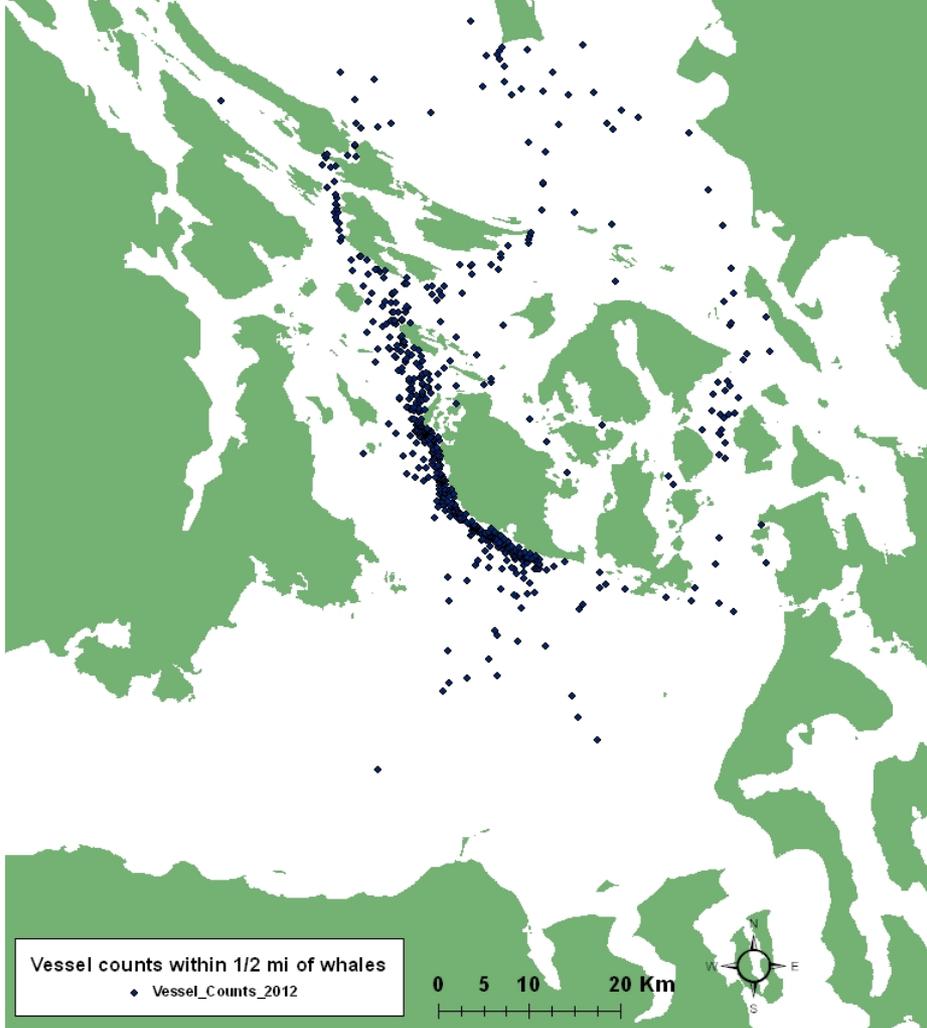
**Vessel Incidents on Multiple Group Days (SRKW)
Soundwatch 2012
May-September**



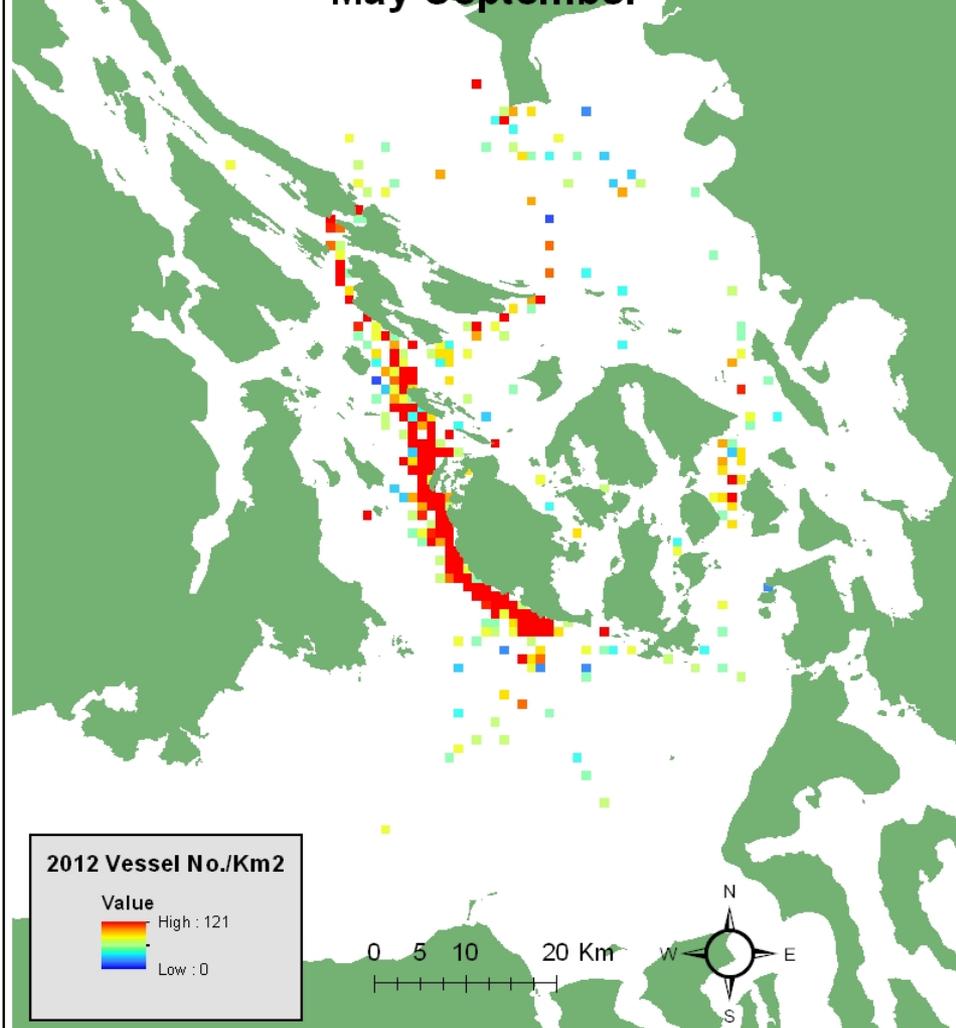
**Vessel Incidents on Single Group Days (SRKW)
Soundwatch 2012
May-September**



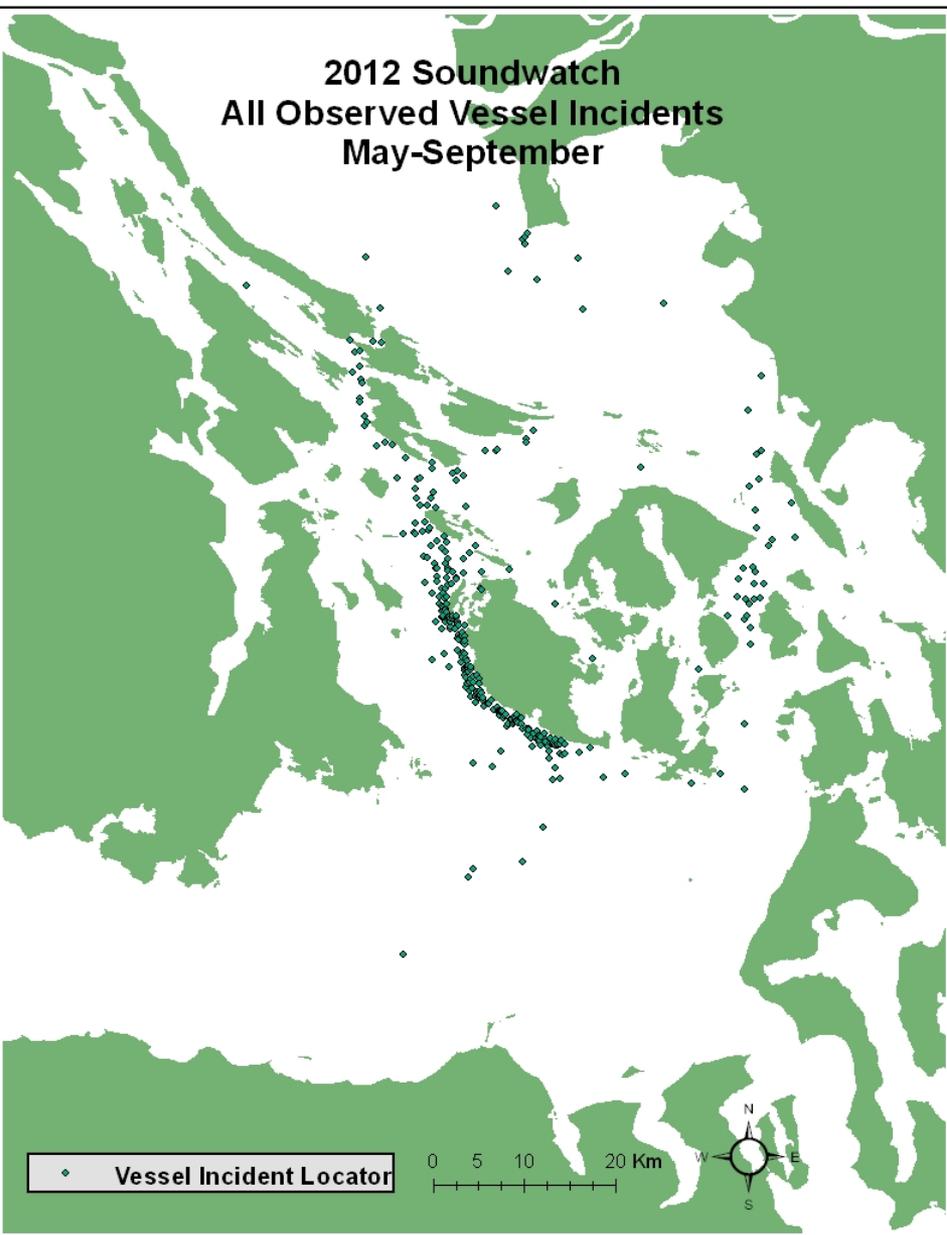
2012 Soundwatch Monitoring Effort May-September



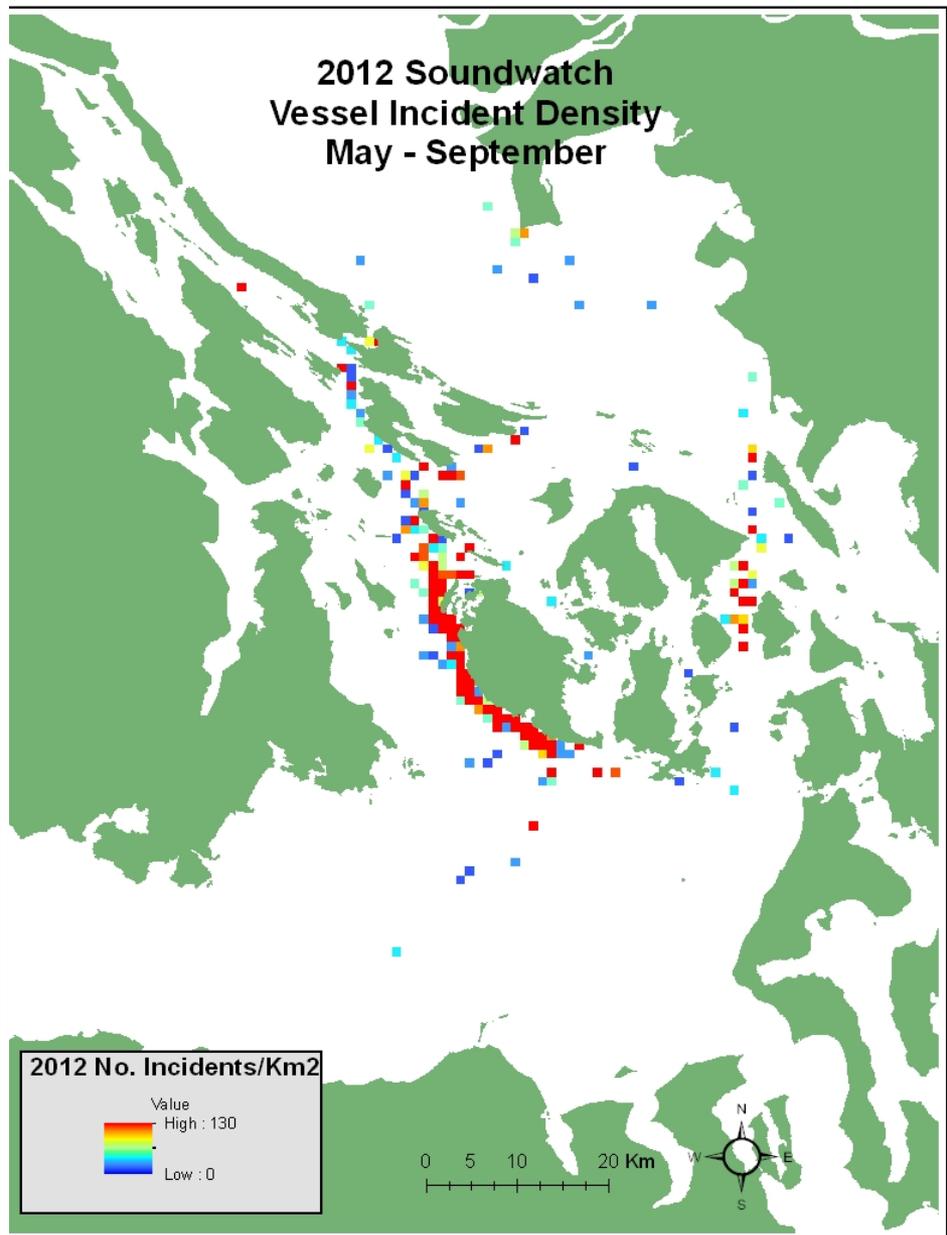
2012 Soundwatch Vessel Density May-September



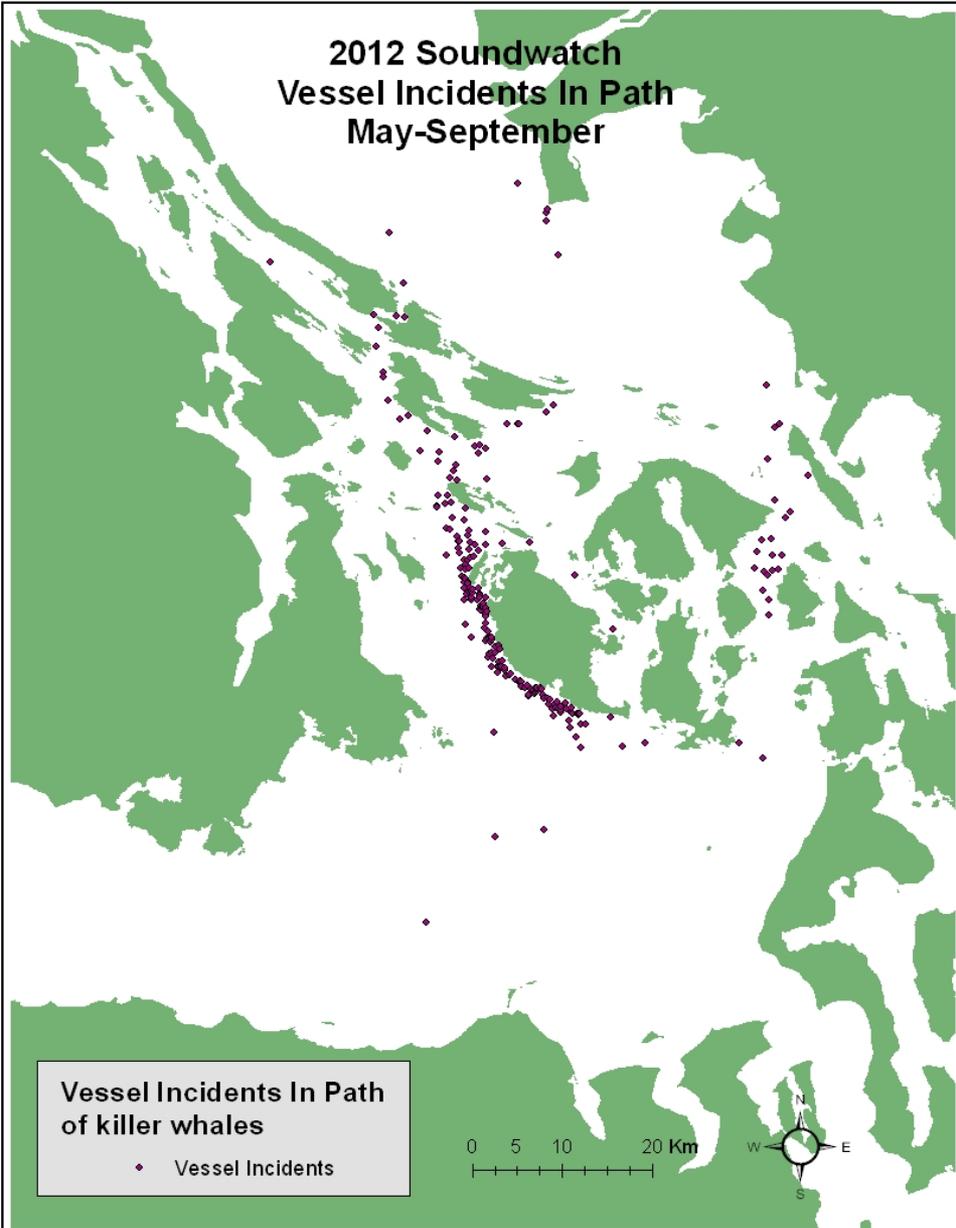
2012 Soundwatch
All Observed Vessel Incidents
May-September



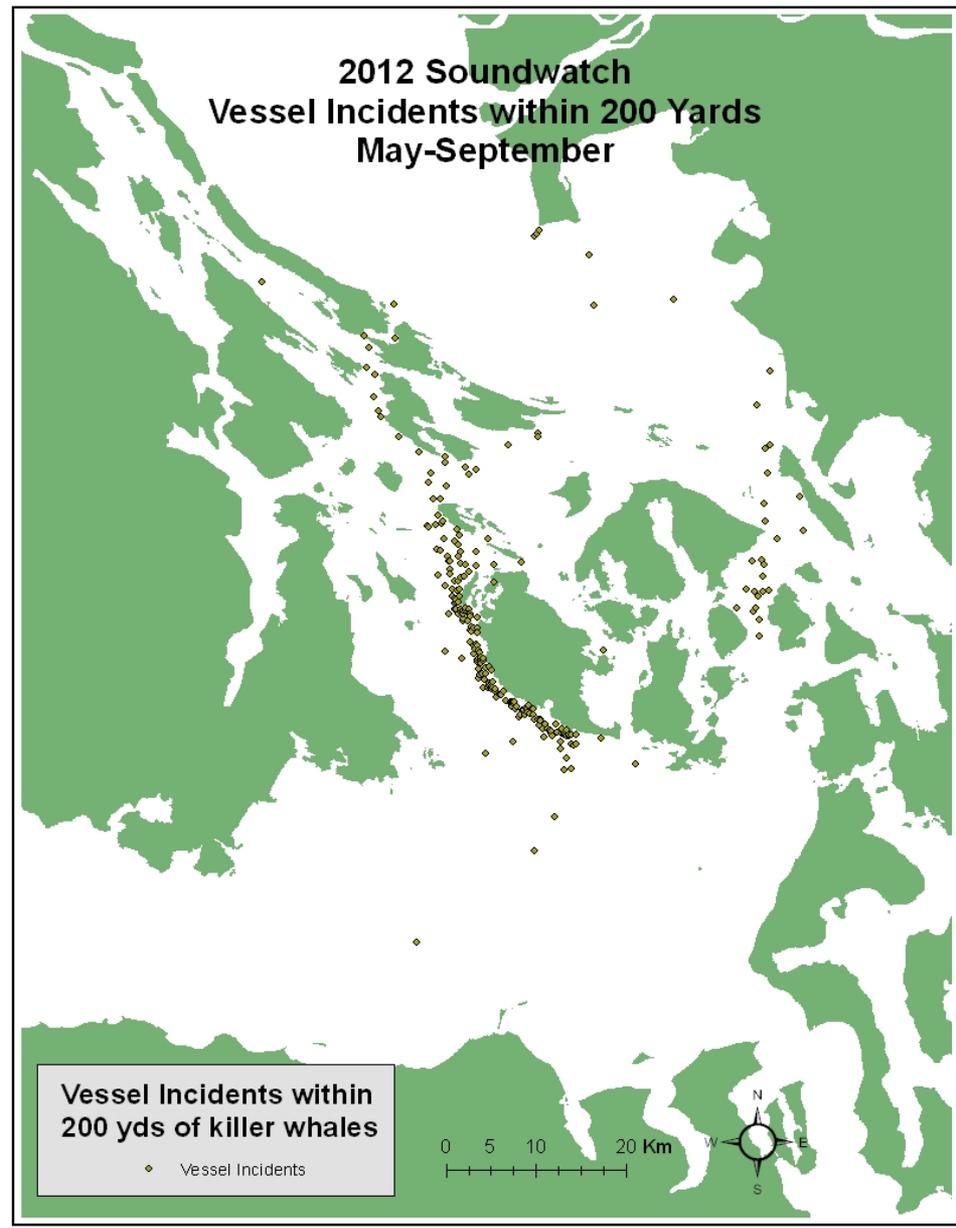
2012 Soundwatch
Vessel Incident Density
May - September

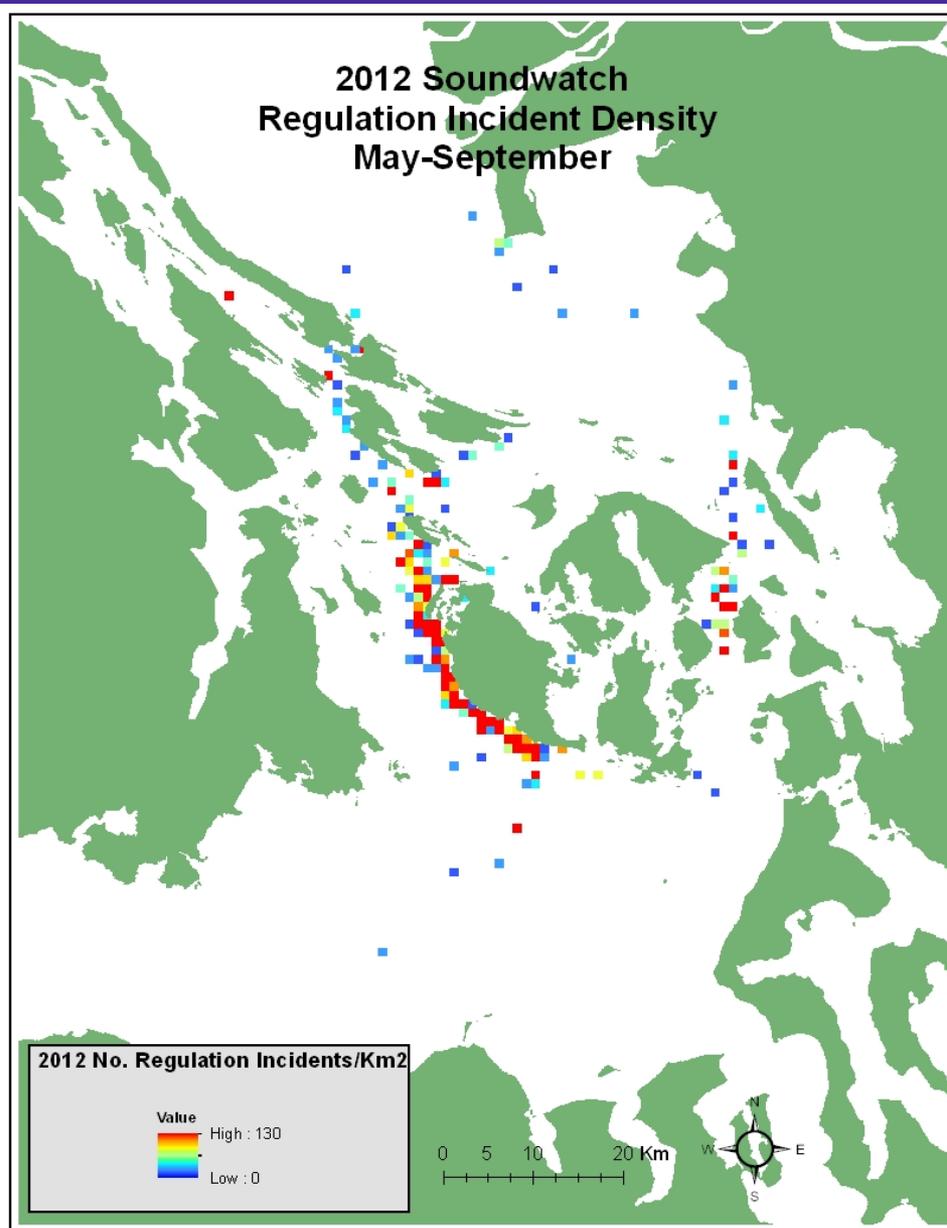


2012 Soundwatch Vessel Incidents In Path May-September



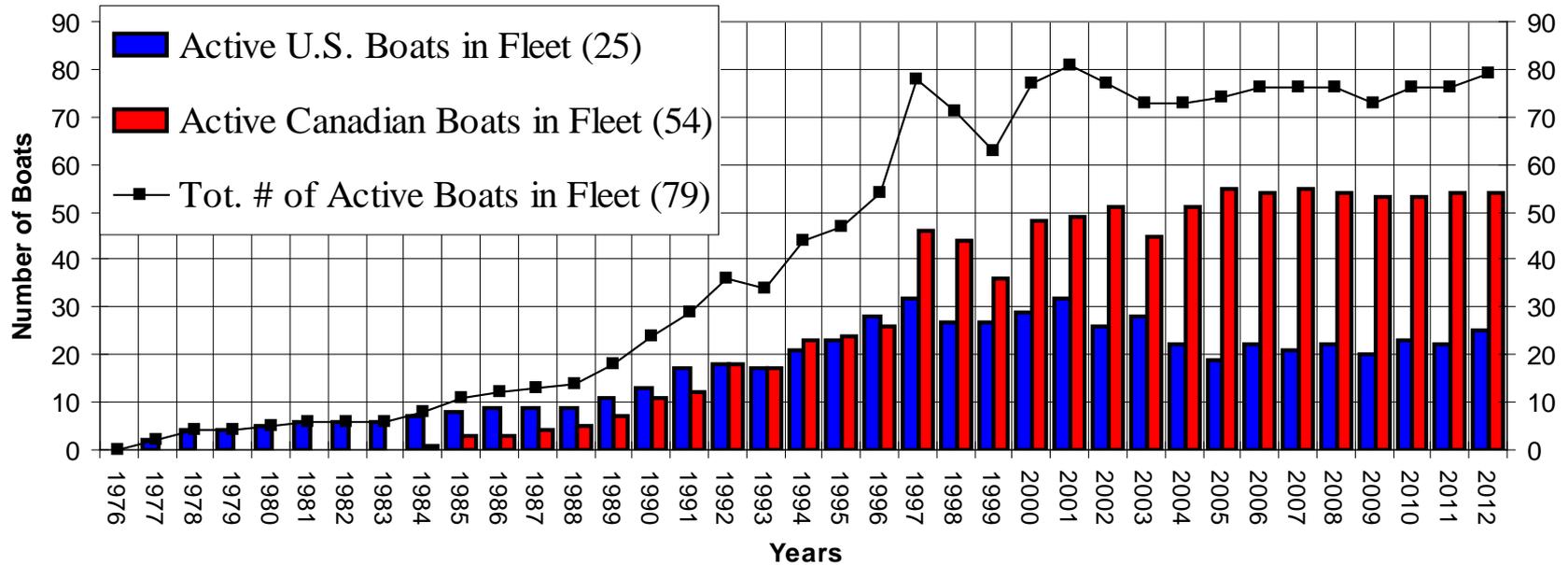
2012 Soundwatch Vessel Incidents within 200 Yards May-September





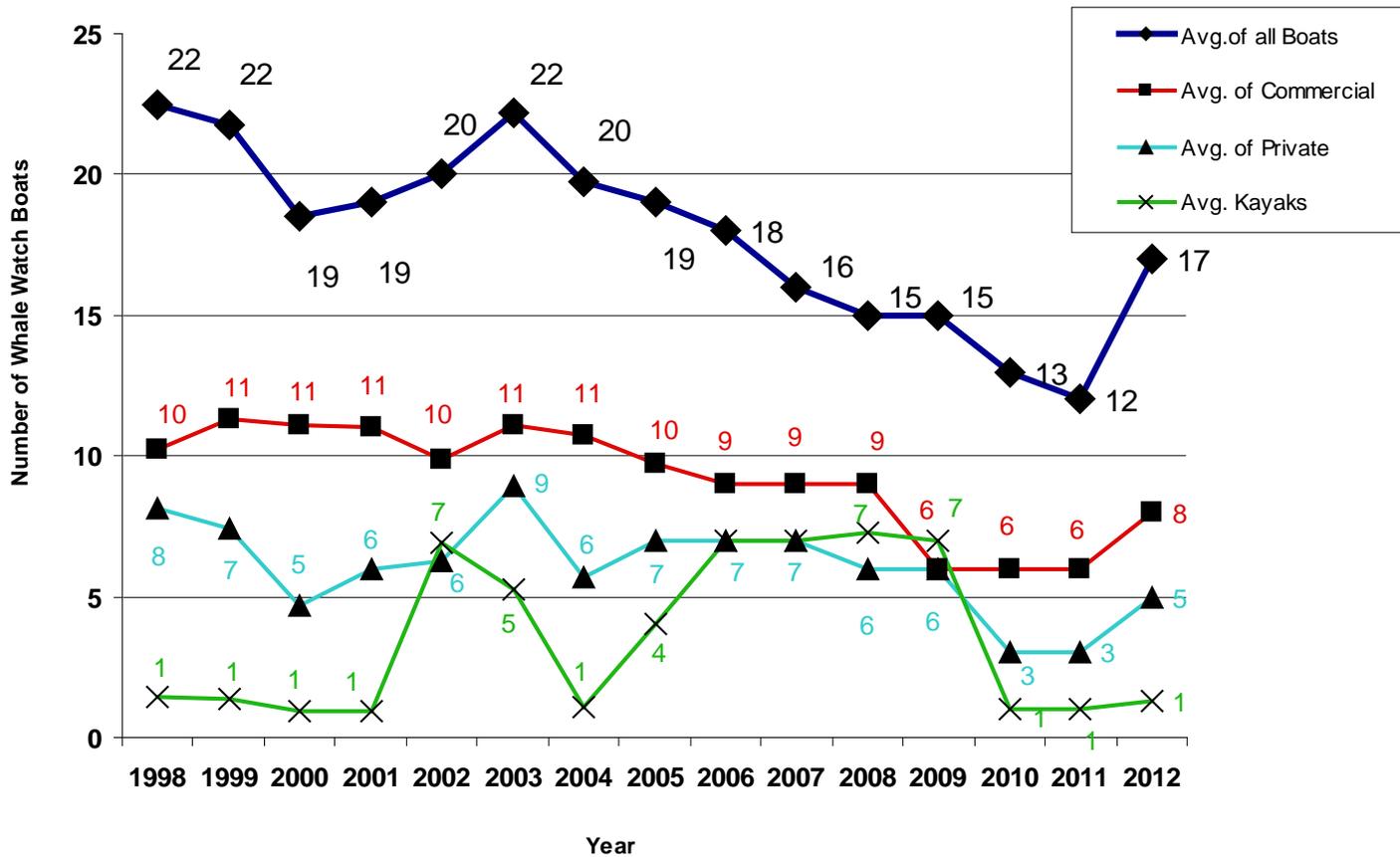
Growth of Commercial Whale Watching in the Boundary Waters of Haro Strait (1976-2012)

(© 2012, Soundwatch/The Whale Museum)

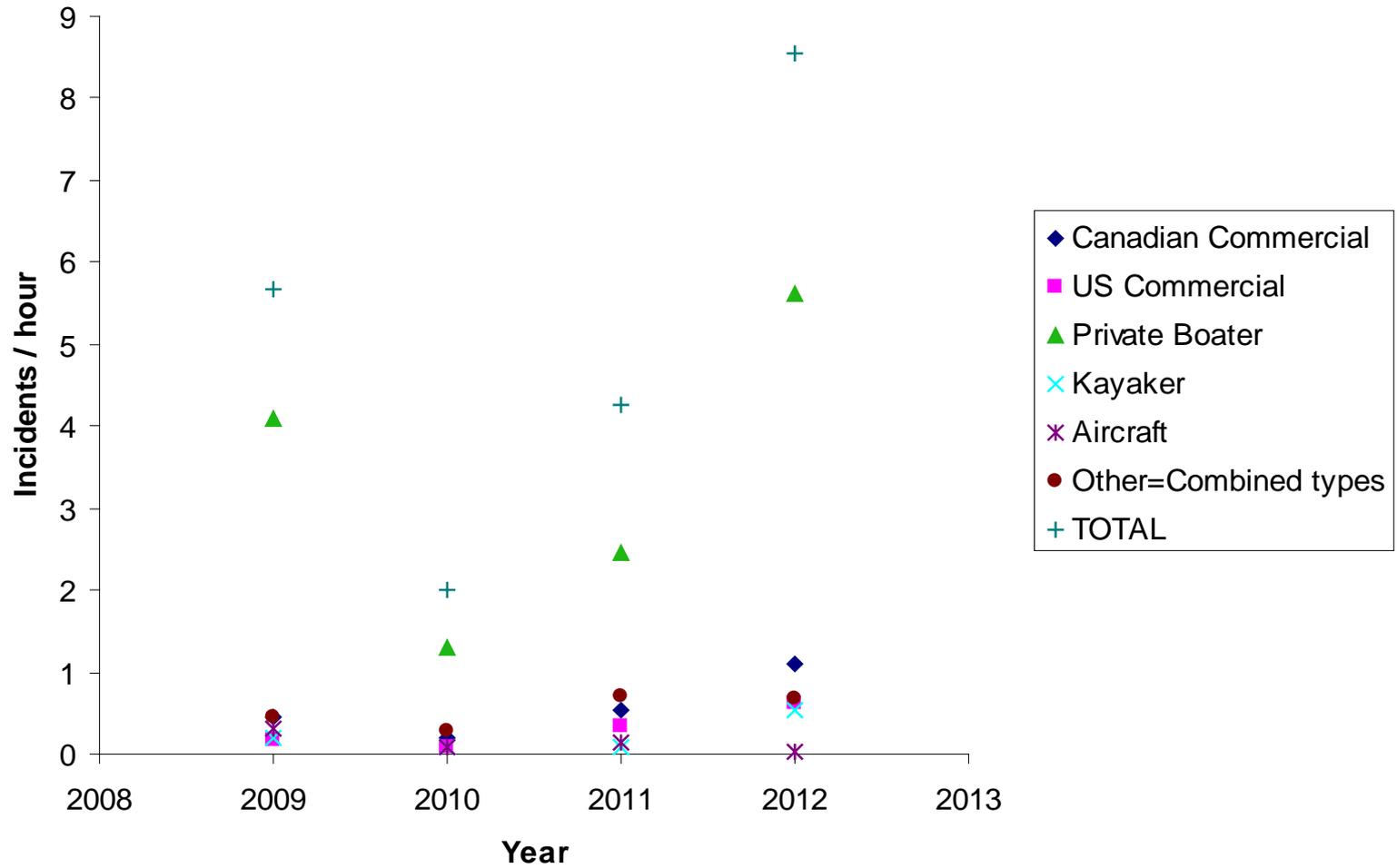


Average Numbers of Vessels By Type Accompanying Orcas in the Boundary Waters (1998-2012)

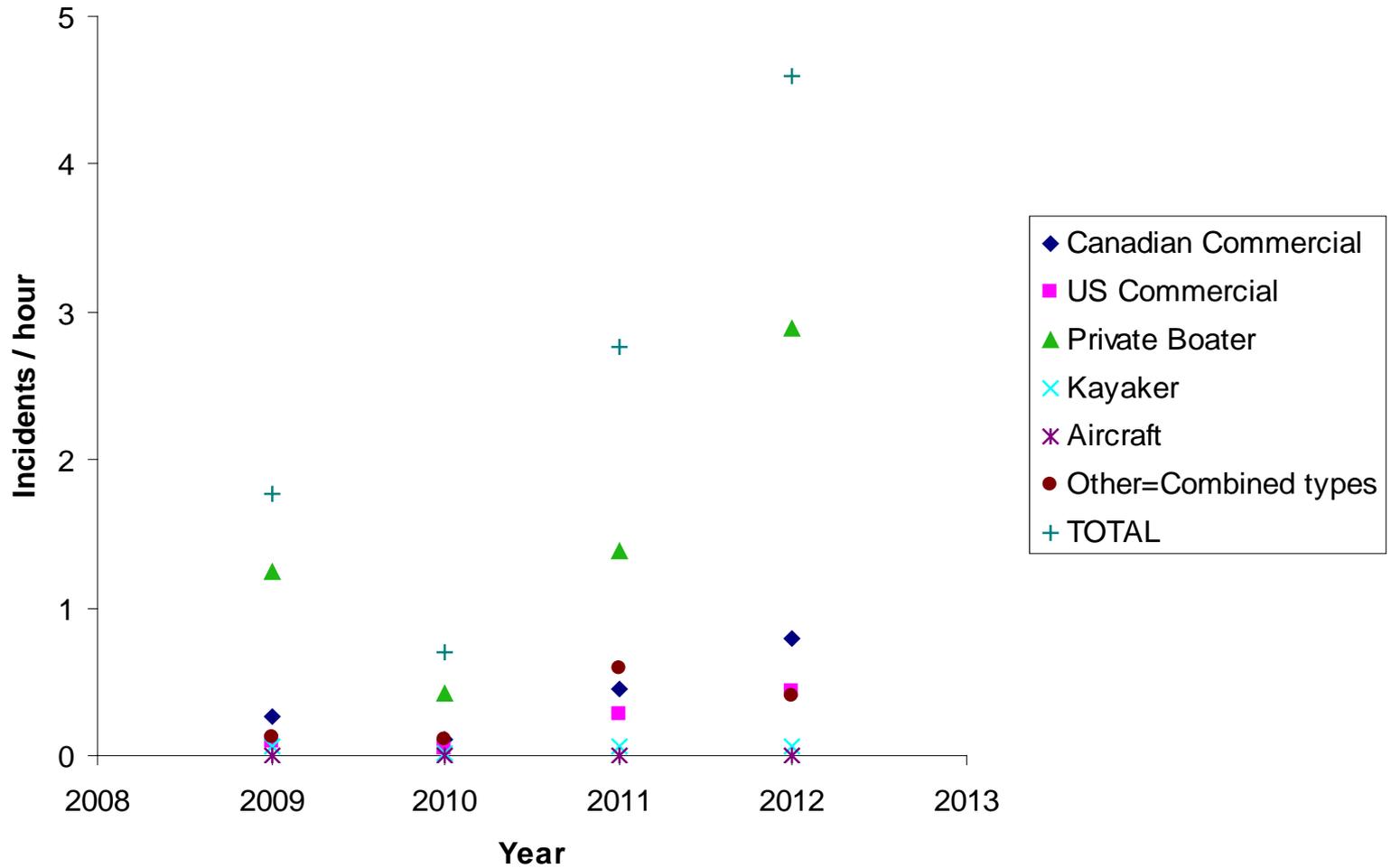
(© 2012, Sounwatch/The Whale Museum)



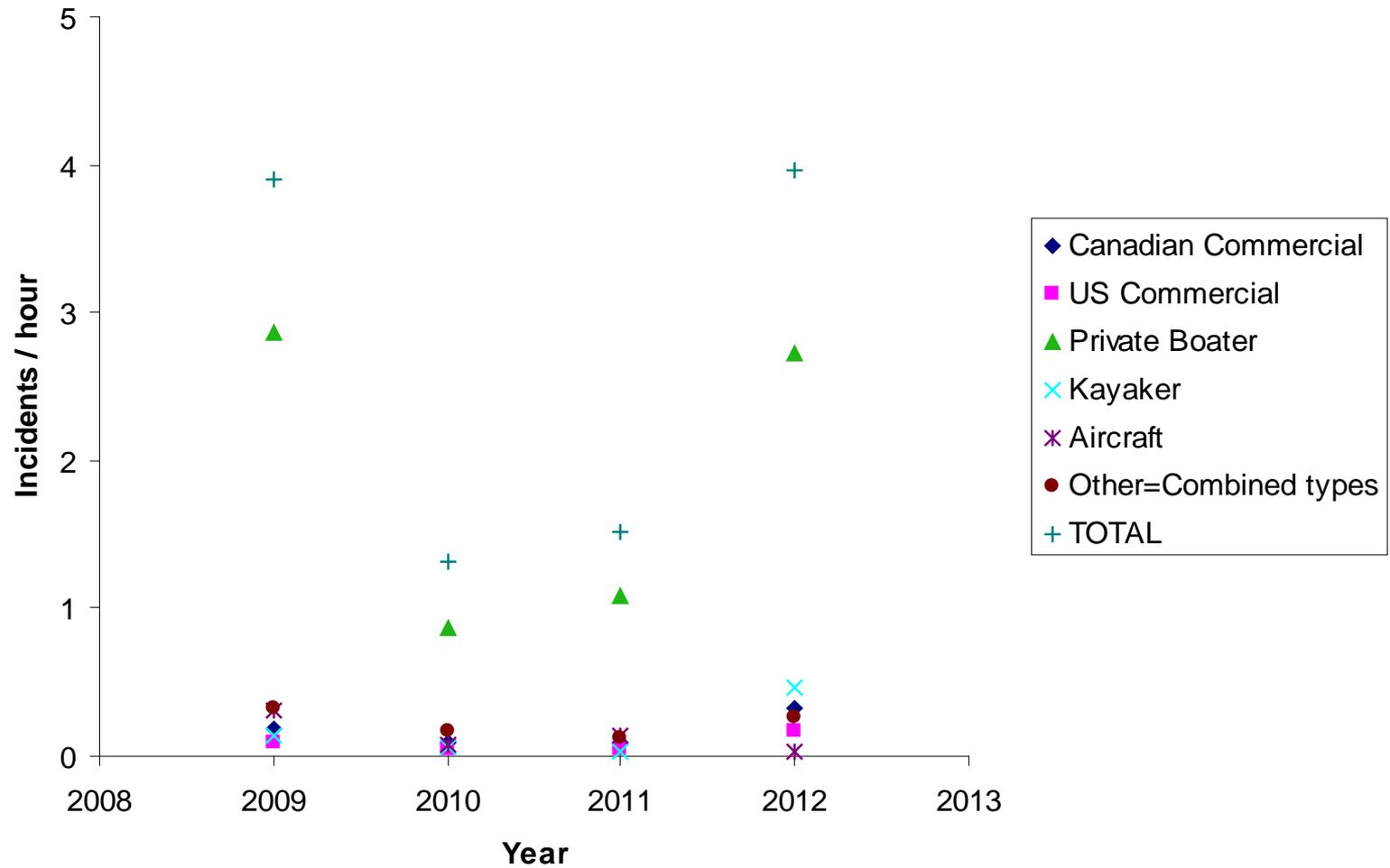
Total incidents



Total Regulation Infractions

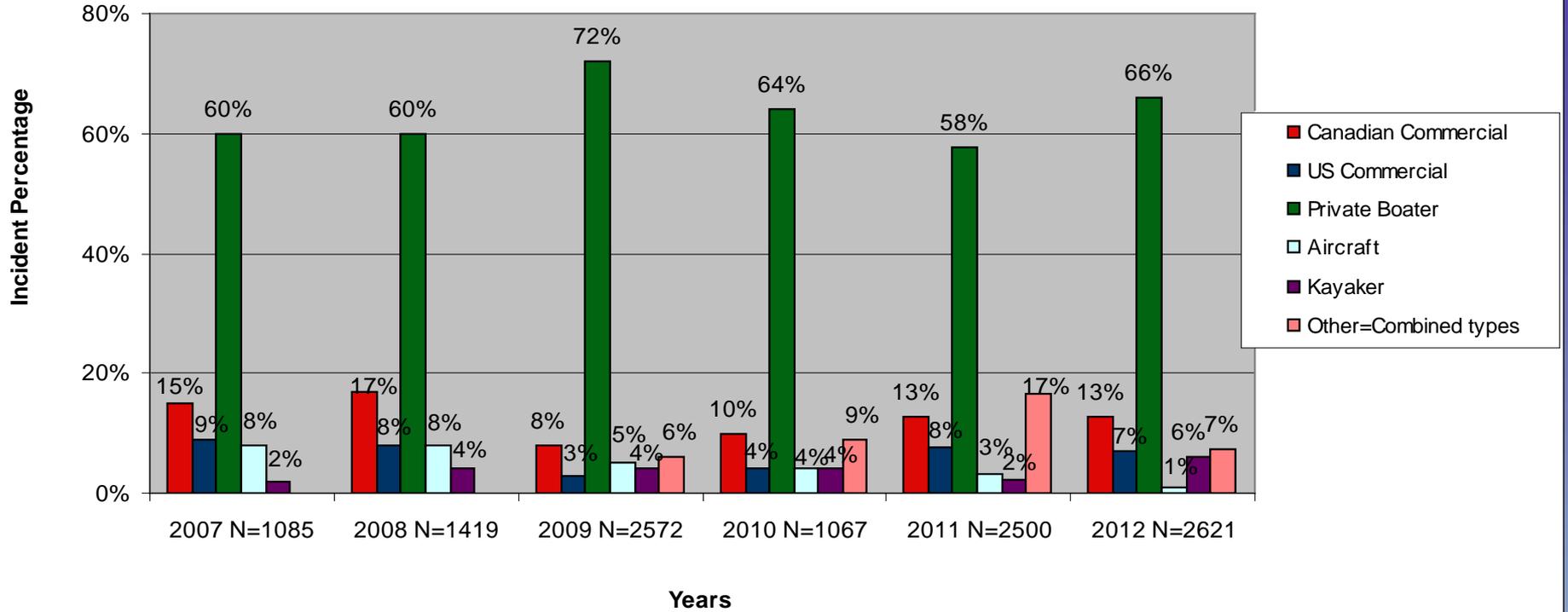


Total Guideline Incidents



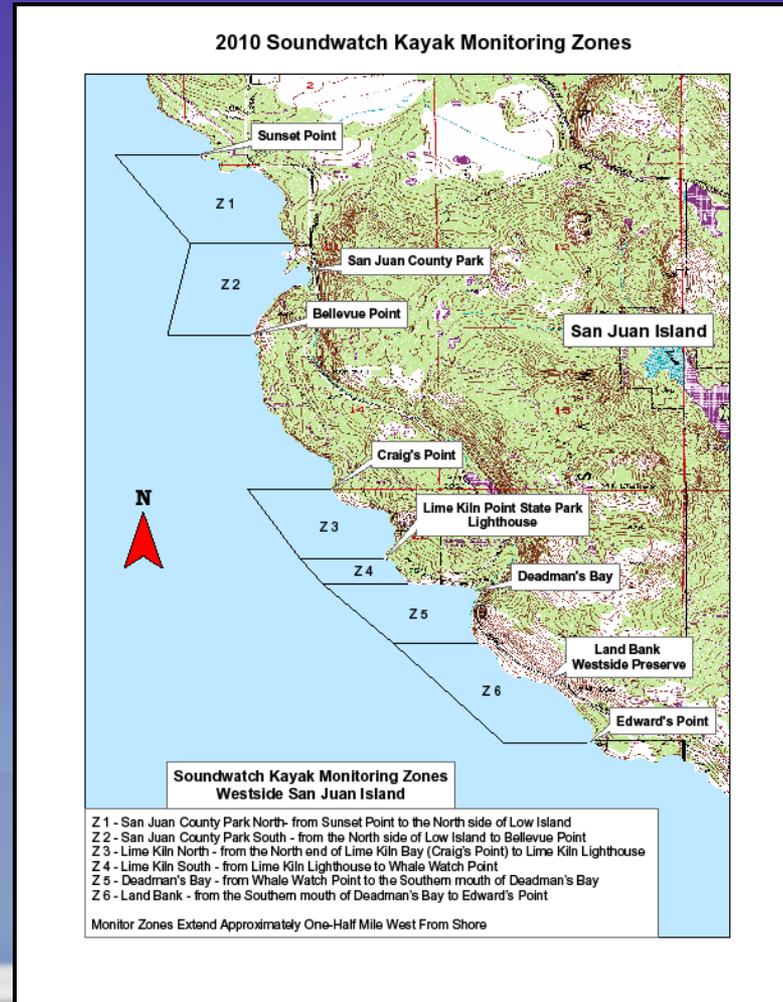
Soundwatch Observed Top Vessel Types for Total Annual Incidents by Percentage 2007-2012

(© 2012, Soundwatch/The Whale Museum)



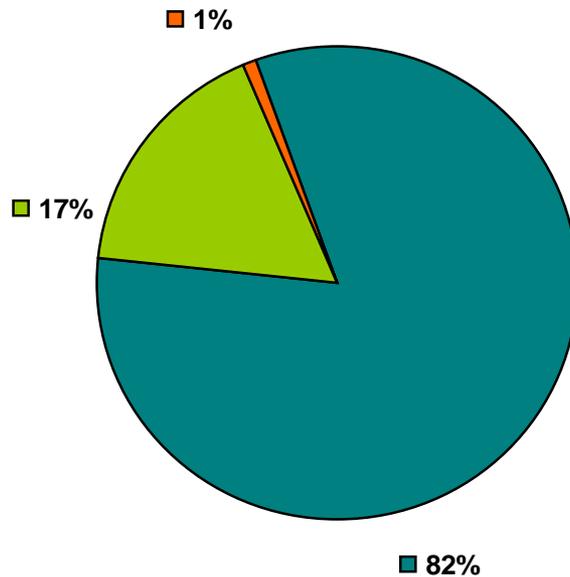
Soundwatch Shore-based Kayak Monitoring Sites

Study sites were chosen to include the main commercial and recreational paddling route adjacent to the central portion of NOAA Proposed No-Go Zone and could be easily monitored from the shore at publically owned properties.



Percentage of Scans With Whales and Kayakers, by Kayaker Type Within 1/2 Mile of Shore In All Zones, July 12-September 23, 2012.

(N= 1,338 Kayakers; 360 Scans; 201 Scans w/ Kayakers; 159 w/out Kayakers)



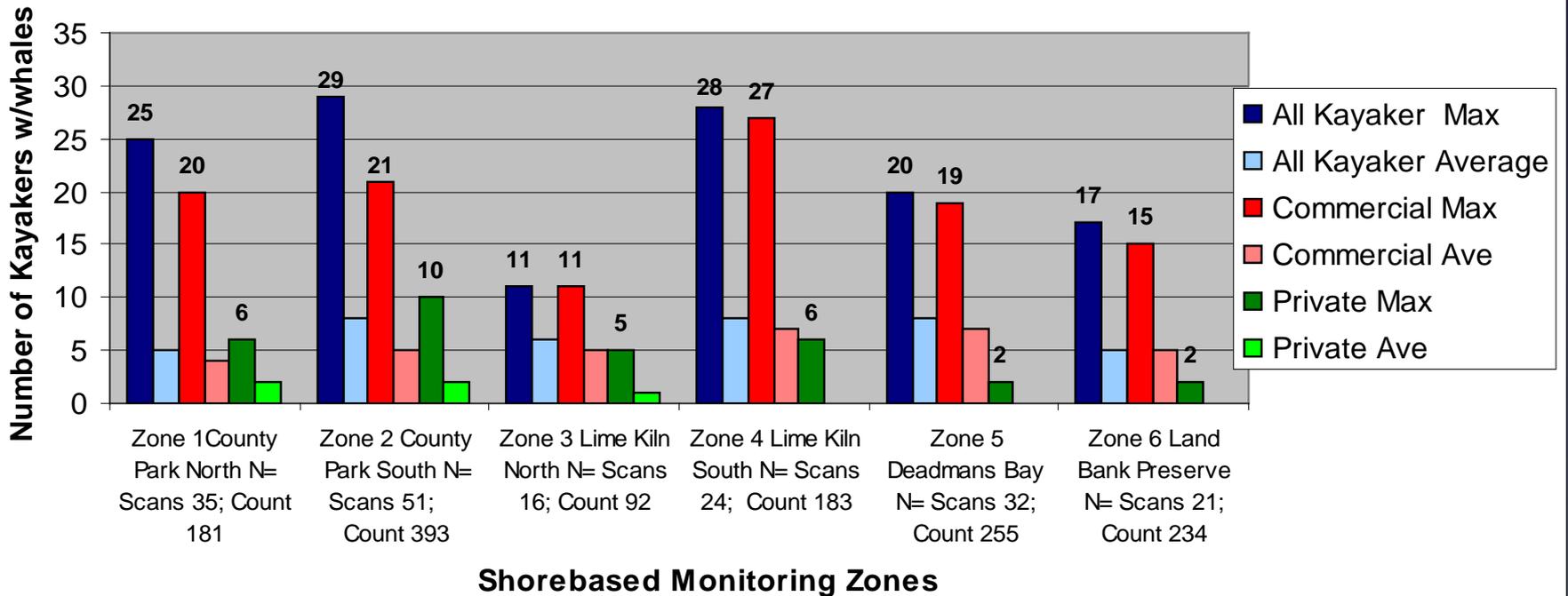
- Total Number of Commercial Kayakers with Whales N=117
- Total Number of Private Kayakers with Whales N=97
- Total Number of Non-Commercial Group and Other Human Powered Craft with Whales N=12

2012 © Soundwatch/The Whale Museum



**2012 Average and Maximum Numbers of Commercial and Private Kayakers
Observed with SRKW within 1/2 Mile of Shore Along the Westside of San Juan
Island By Zone. (N= 1,338; Vessel Scans)**

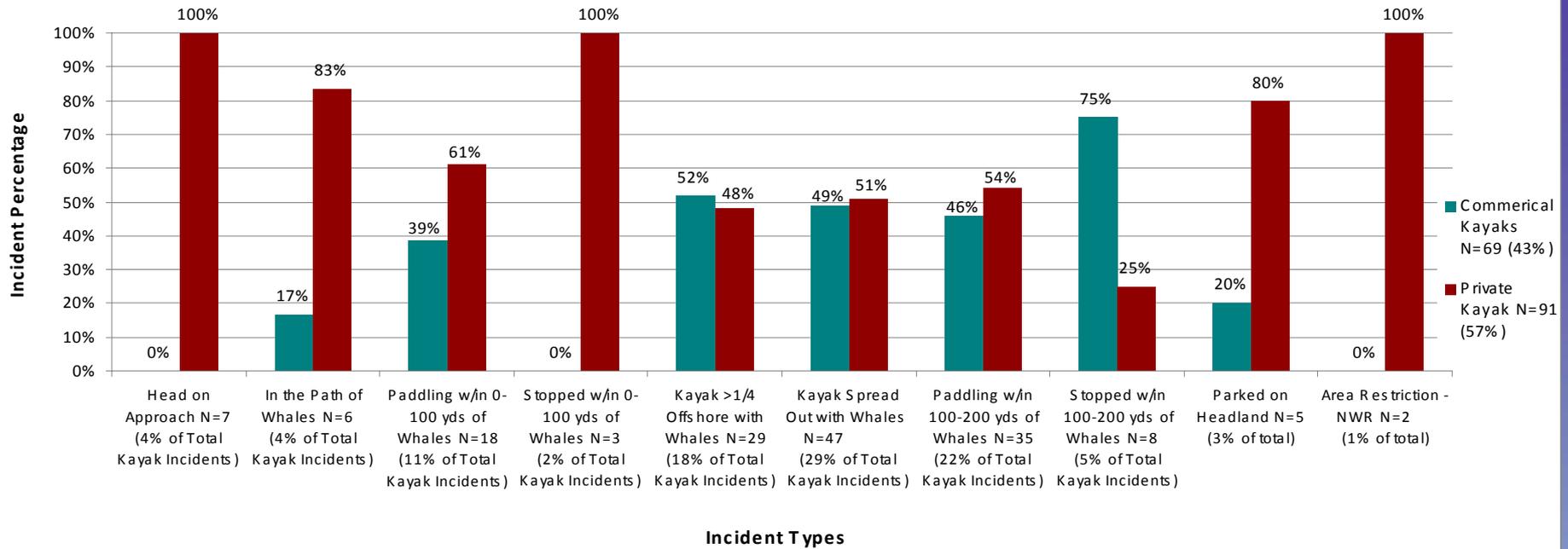
2012 © Soundwatch, The Whale Museum



2012 Soundwatch Observed Kayak Incidents by Percentage

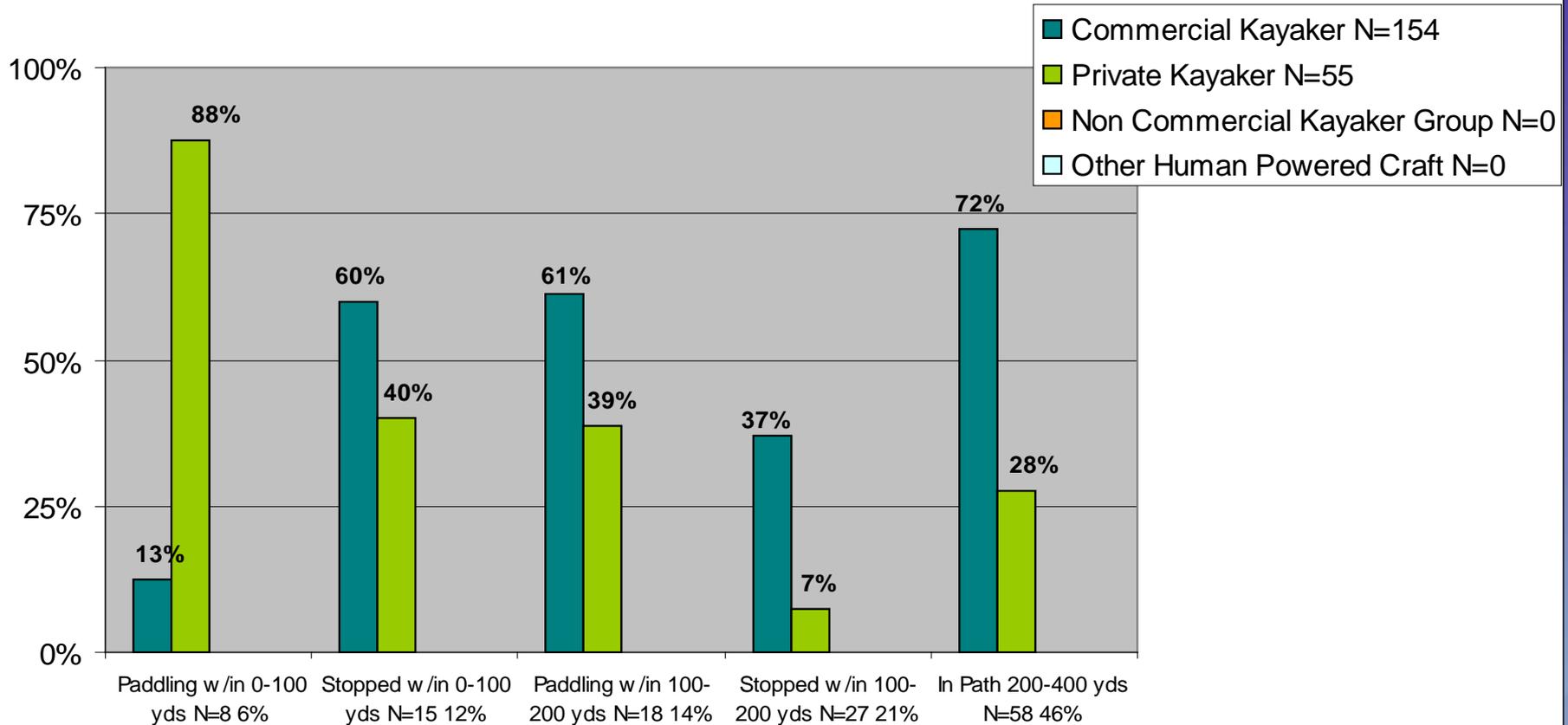
(N=160 Kayaker Incidents; 2,621 Total Incidents; 6% Overall)

(© 2012, Soundwatch/The Whale Museum)

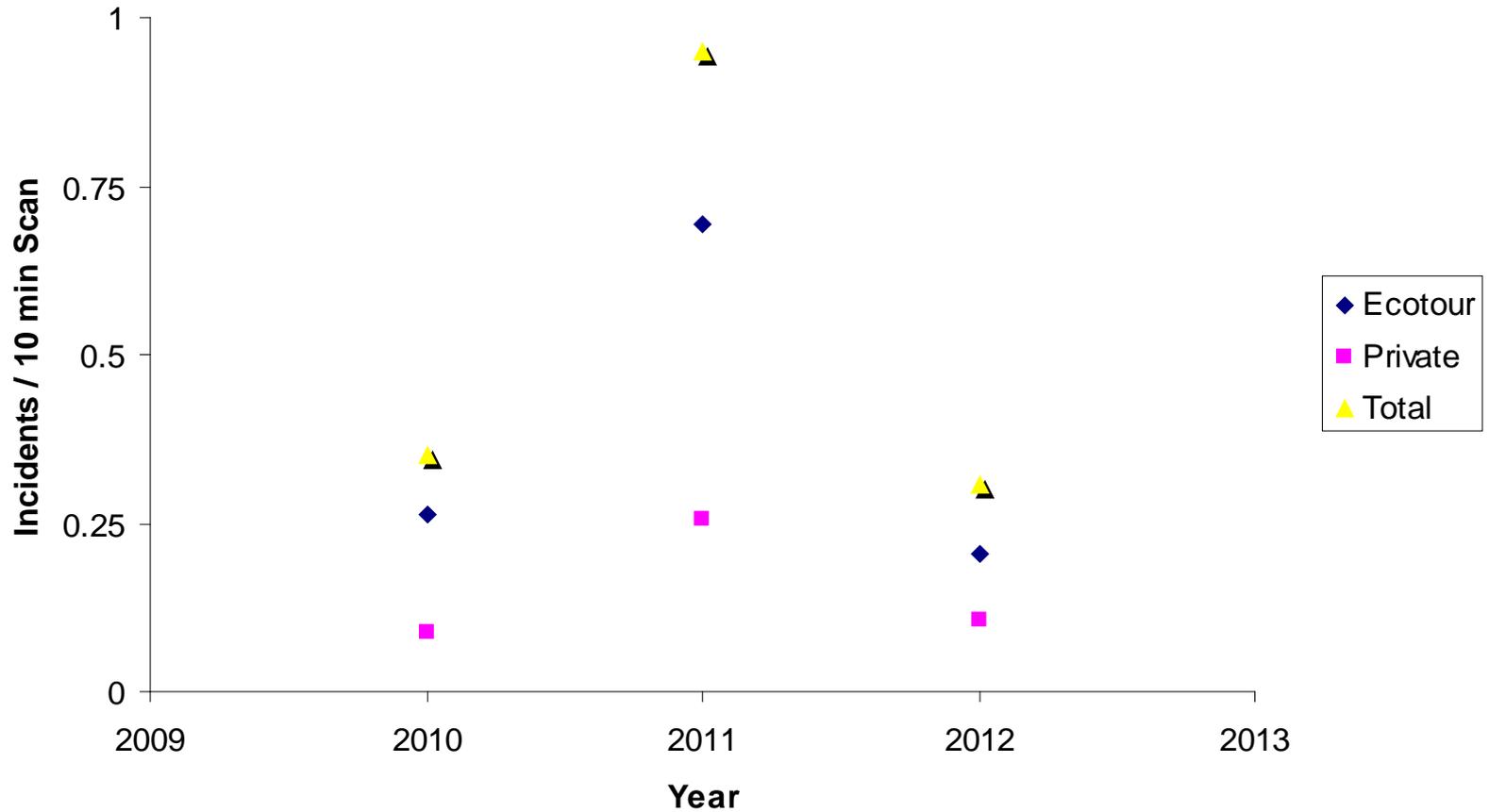


All Observed Kayaker Vessel Regulation Incident Percentages by Kayaker Type Percentage with SRKW within 1/2 Mile of Shore in All Zones July 12-September 23, 2012

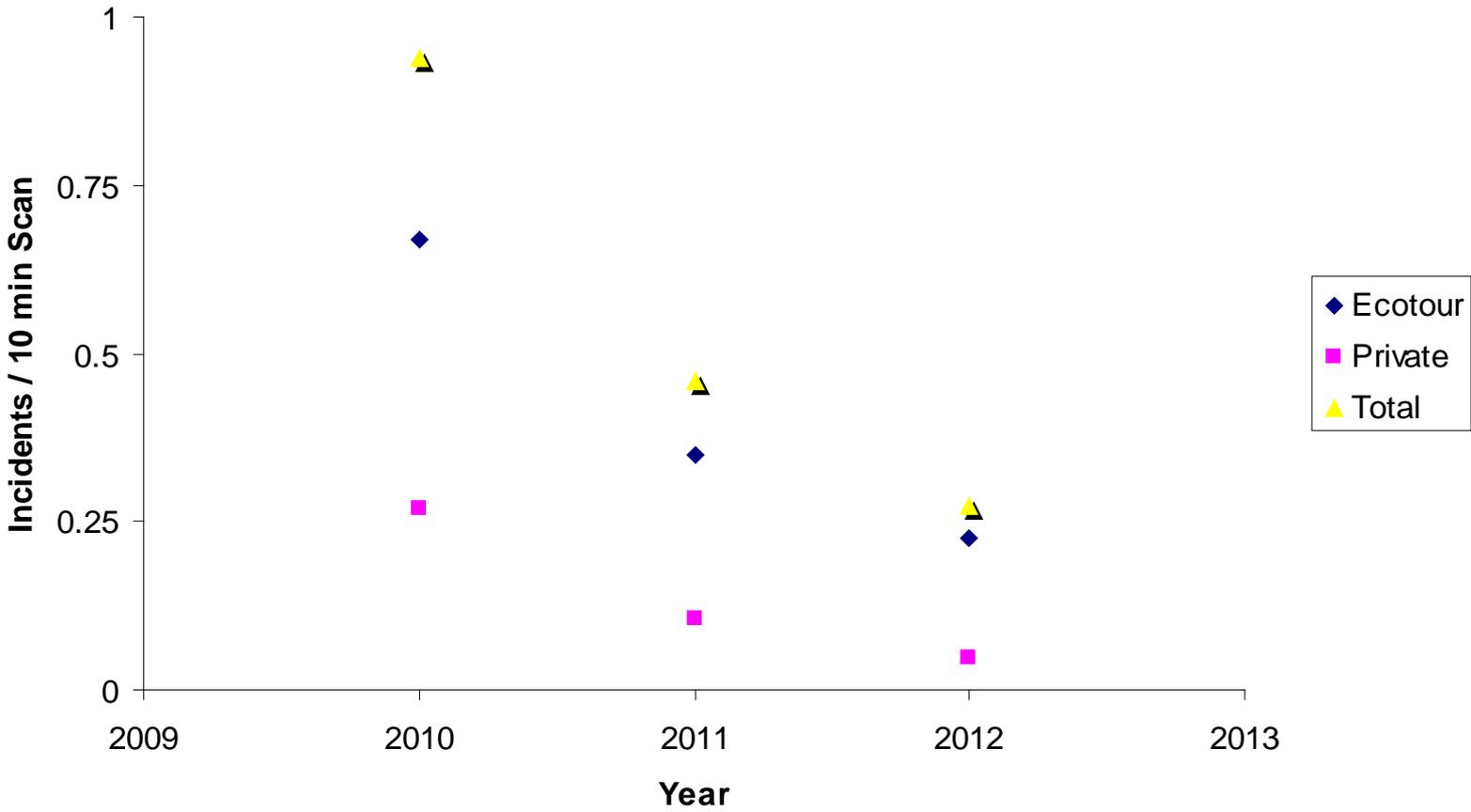
(N= 126 Regulation Incidents).
2012 © Soundwatch/The Whale Museum



Kayak Regulation Infractions



Kayak Guideline Incidents





2012 Soundwatch and KERP Education and Monitoring Projects conducted by:
The Whale Museum Research Curator Eric Eisenhardt, Soundwatch
Assistant Coordinator Nicole Brandt, Kayak Monitoring Program Lead
Researcher Shannon Buckham and Research Assistant Breanna Walker,
dozens of Interns and Volunteers

2012 Funding for Soundwatch: WDFW-ALEA, Private donors, TWM thru Orca
Adoption & Gift Shop, Charlotte Martin Foundation, Patagonia, San Juan
Island Community Foundation, NOAA

2012 Funding for KERP: San Juan Island Kayakers Association; San Juan
County Parks (in kind)

2010-2012 Funding for Kayak Monitoring: NOAA Fisheries

