

# 2015 Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment

Brian Kirk  
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# Ecology Spills Program

- Mission:
  - Protect Washington’s environment, public health and safety through a comprehensive spill prevention, preparedness, and response program
- Vision:
  - Prevent, prepare for, and respond aggressively to oil spills
  - Be our best for the state of Washington
  - Our spills goal is “zero spills.”



# Ecology Spills Program

- Four major activities
  - Prevent oil spills from vessels and oil handling facilities
  - Prepare for aggressive response to oil and hazardous material incidents
  - Rapidly respond to and clean up oil and hazardous material spills
  - Restore public natural resources damaged by oil spills



# Ecology Spills Prevention

- Vessel screening and inspections
- Voluntary programs for tank vessels
- Oil transfer inspections
- Oil transportation risk assessments
- Facility inspections, plan review
- Technical assistance to the regulated community
- Incident Investigation



# 2015 VTRA Background

**Sponsor:** Ecology

**Principle Investigators:** George Washington University, Virginia Commonwealth University

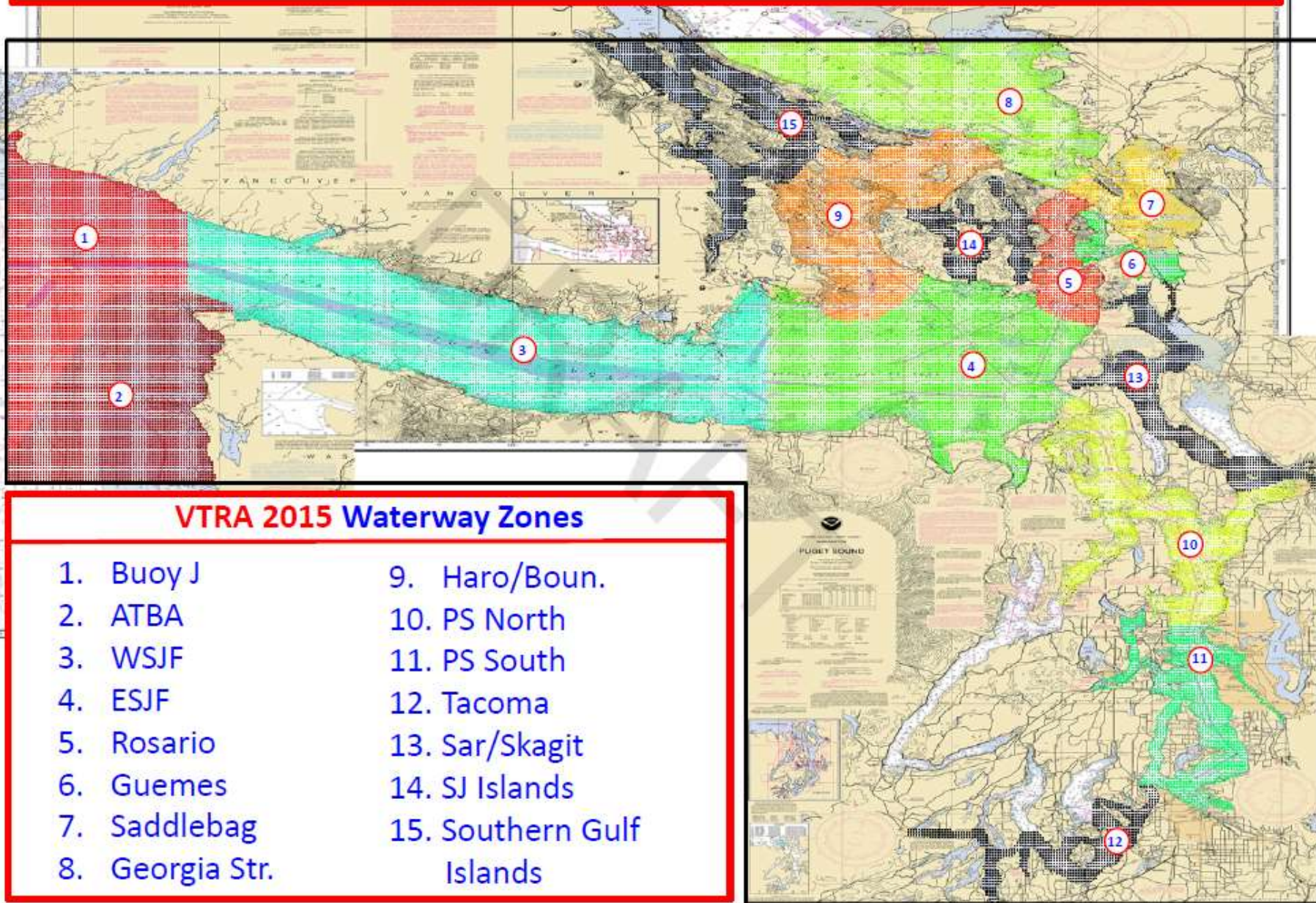
**Purpose:** Provide updated information about the risks of oil spills from commercial vessel traffic in the Salish Sea



# VESSEL TRAFFIC RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA) 2015



# DEFINITION OF 15 WATERWAY ZONES



# VTRA Workgroup Membership

**Chair:** Captain Stephan Moreno, Puget Sound Pilots  
(November, 2015 – August, 2016)

**Federal advisors:**

- US Coast Guard District 13; Sector Puget Sound

**State and tribal leads:**

- Makah Tribal Council
- Washington State Department of Ecology

**Core workgroup members:**

- American Waterways Operators
- BP
- Marine Exchange of Puget Sound
- Mulno Cove Consulting/Friends of the San Juans
- Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Puget Sound Pilots
- Puget Soundkeeper
- Tesoro
- Washington Association of Counties
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Wave/Friends of the Earth
- Western States Petroleum Association





# VTRA Process

- **Update the model** with 2015 vessel traffic data
- **Define and model “what-if” cases** to reflect marine terminal projects that could become operational by 2025
- **Define and model risk reduction measures** to provide information about their potential to reduce accidents and oil spill risks



# Key Risk Reduction Measures Modeled

- **Improvements to international and federal standards** that are in the process of being implemented
- **Rescue tug(s)** for Haro Strait and Boundary Pass
- **Tug escort** for articulated tug barges (ATBs) and towed oil barges in Puget Sound
- **Removal of the current size restriction** (125,000 deadweight tons) on oil tankers in Puget Sound
- **Escort of outbound tankers** from Kinder Morgan's Westridge Marine Terminal to the Pacific Ocean



# Key Points to Consider

- Model results should be **considered in context** of the assumptions used in the model
- The VTRA process **focused on prevention** of accidents and oil spills, not oil spill trajectory, fate, or impact
- The **results provide a tool** to compare potential differences between the base case, what-if cases, and risk mitigation measures
- These **results are not predictions** of how many or what size oil spills will occur



# Model Results

Oil spills from commercial vessels are  
“low probability/high consequence events”

- **98% of accidents did not result in oil loss** for both the base case and the 1,600 vessel what-if case
- **All the potential oil loss** evaluated in the model was the **result of less than 2% of potential accidents**



# Model Results

## Risk Varies by Region

- For the 1,600 vessel what-if case, the largest increases in potential oil loss and potential accident frequency were at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in the Haro Strait/Boundary Pass waterway zone
  - Largest increase in potential oil loss by volume was in the Haro Strait/Boundary Pass waterway zone



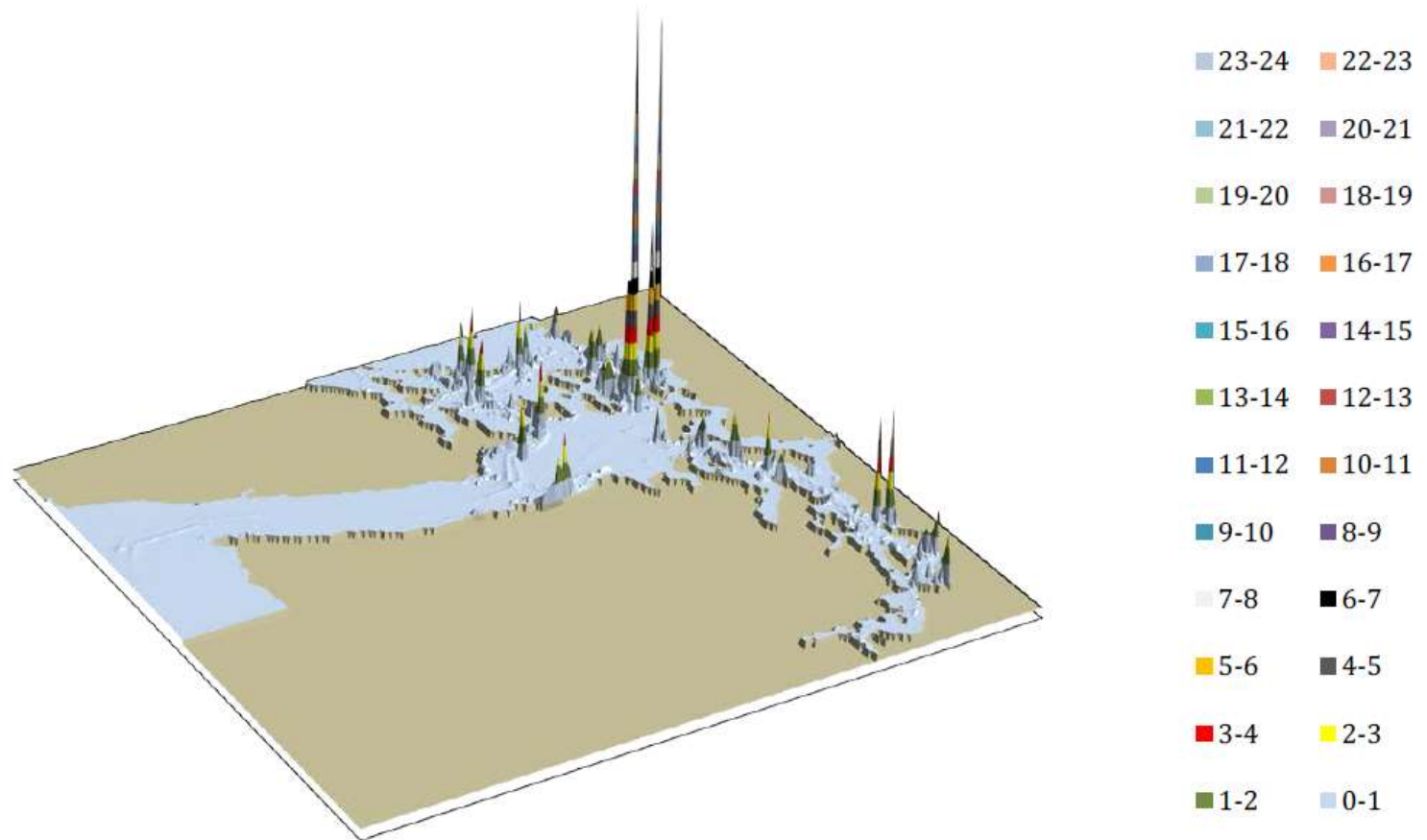
# Model Results

Risk in a complex system is  
best managed systemically

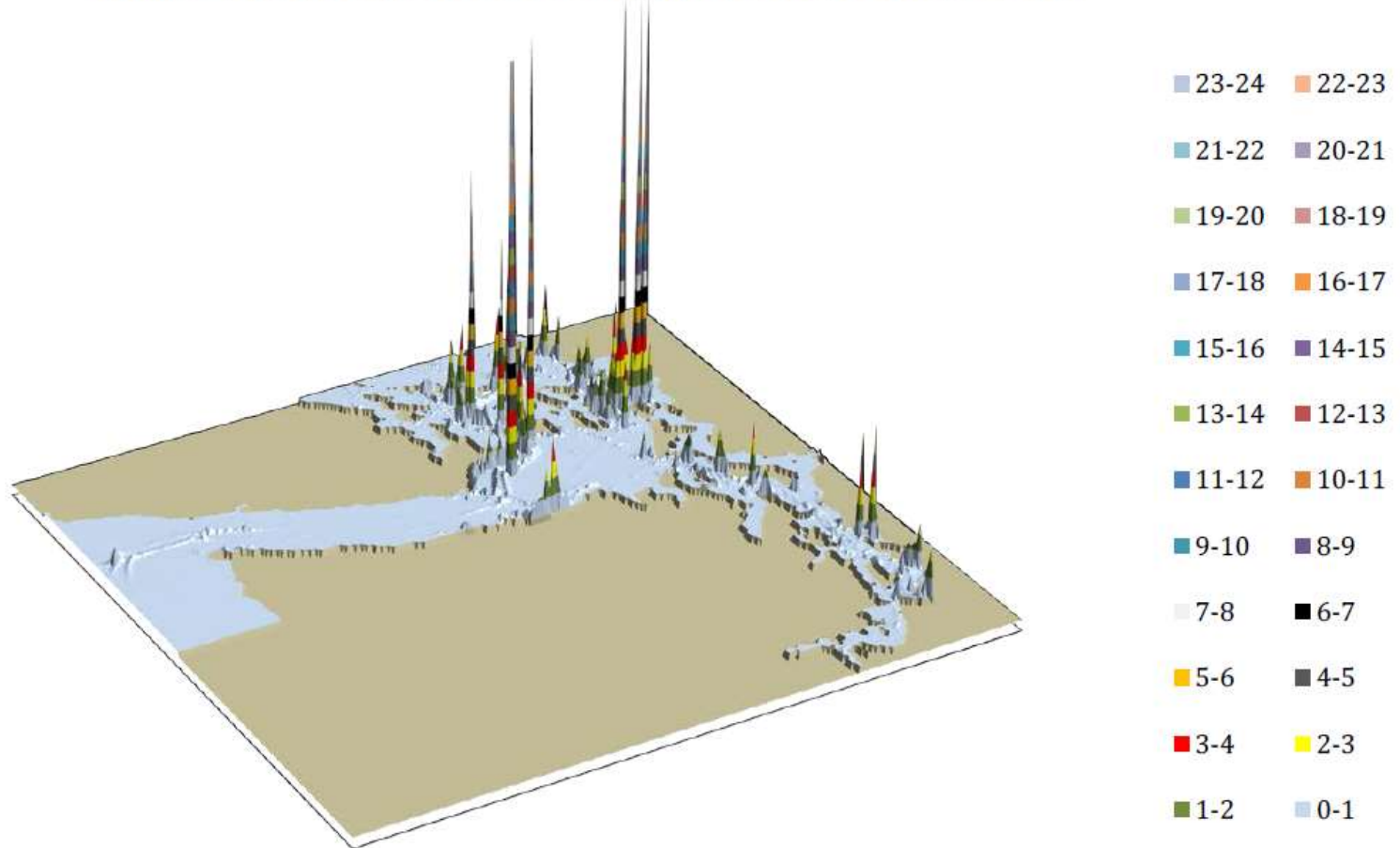
- The **greatest overall reductions** in potential oil loss **came from a portfolio** of five mitigation measures, rather than any single action.
- Within the five mitigation measure portfolio, the measure approximating pending improvements to vessel traffic management and safety had the greatest effect.
  - However, the model makes “maximum benefit assumptions” about the potential effect of these pending changes
- Removing the 125,000 deadweight ton restriction on oil tankers increased potential oil loss
- Tug escorts for articulated tug barges and towed oil barges reduced potential accidents by 15% and potential oil loss by 3%, compared to the 1,600 vessel what-if case



## VTRA '15: Base Case 3D Risk Profile All FV - Pot.C+G+A.Oil Loss: 100% of Base Case POL

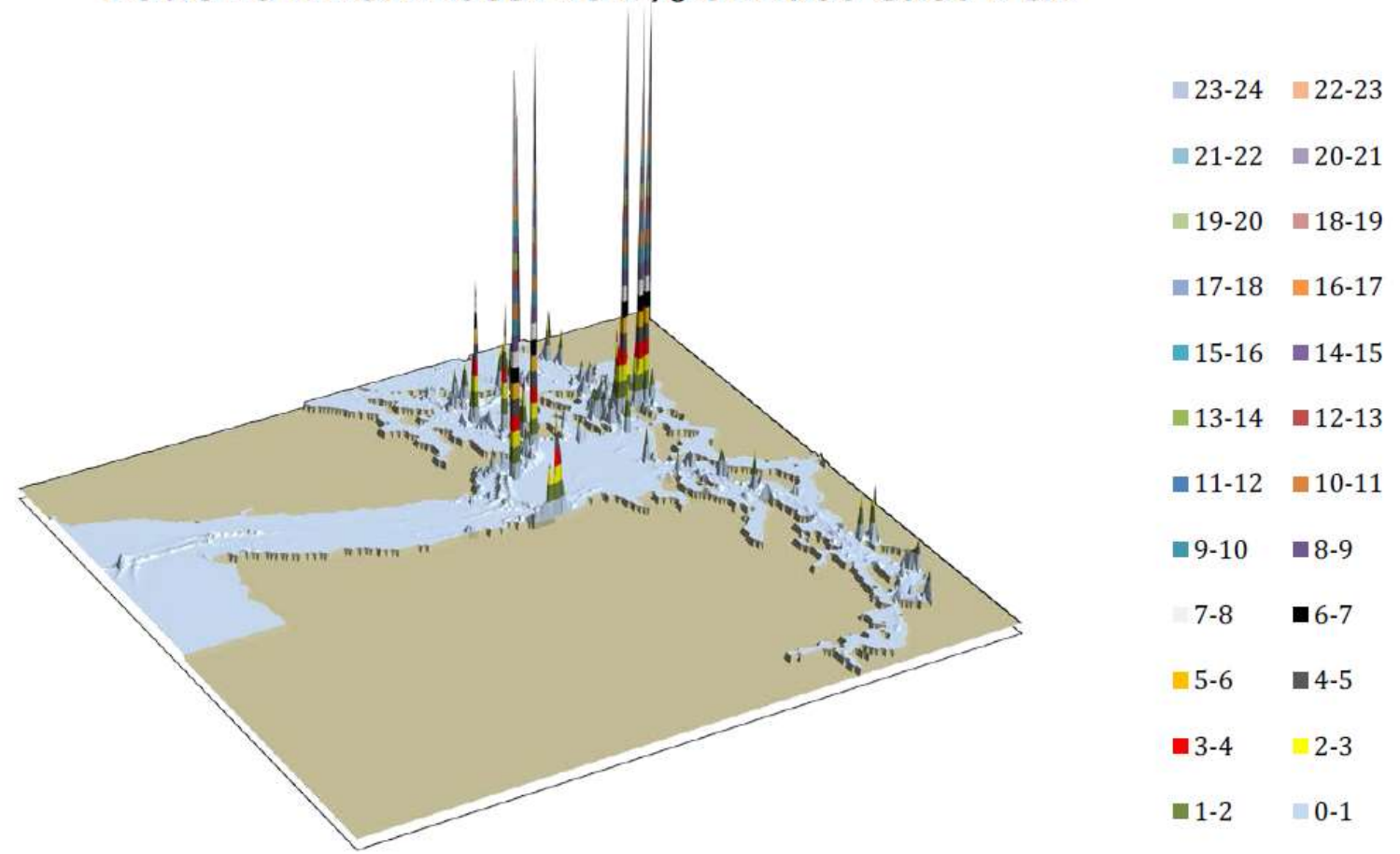


## USKMCA1600 3D Risk Profile All FV - Pot.C+G+A.Oil Loss: 184% of Base Case POL

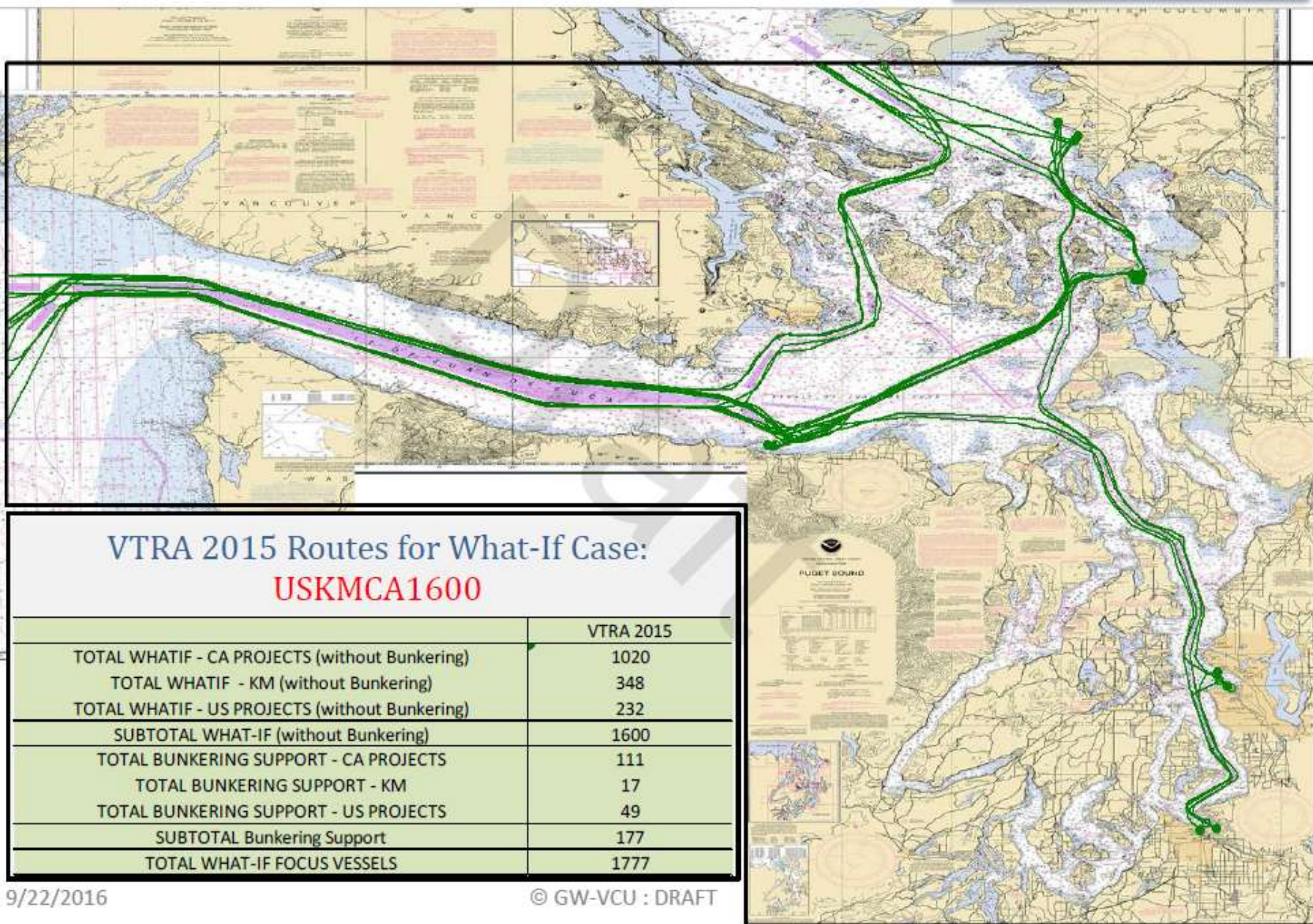




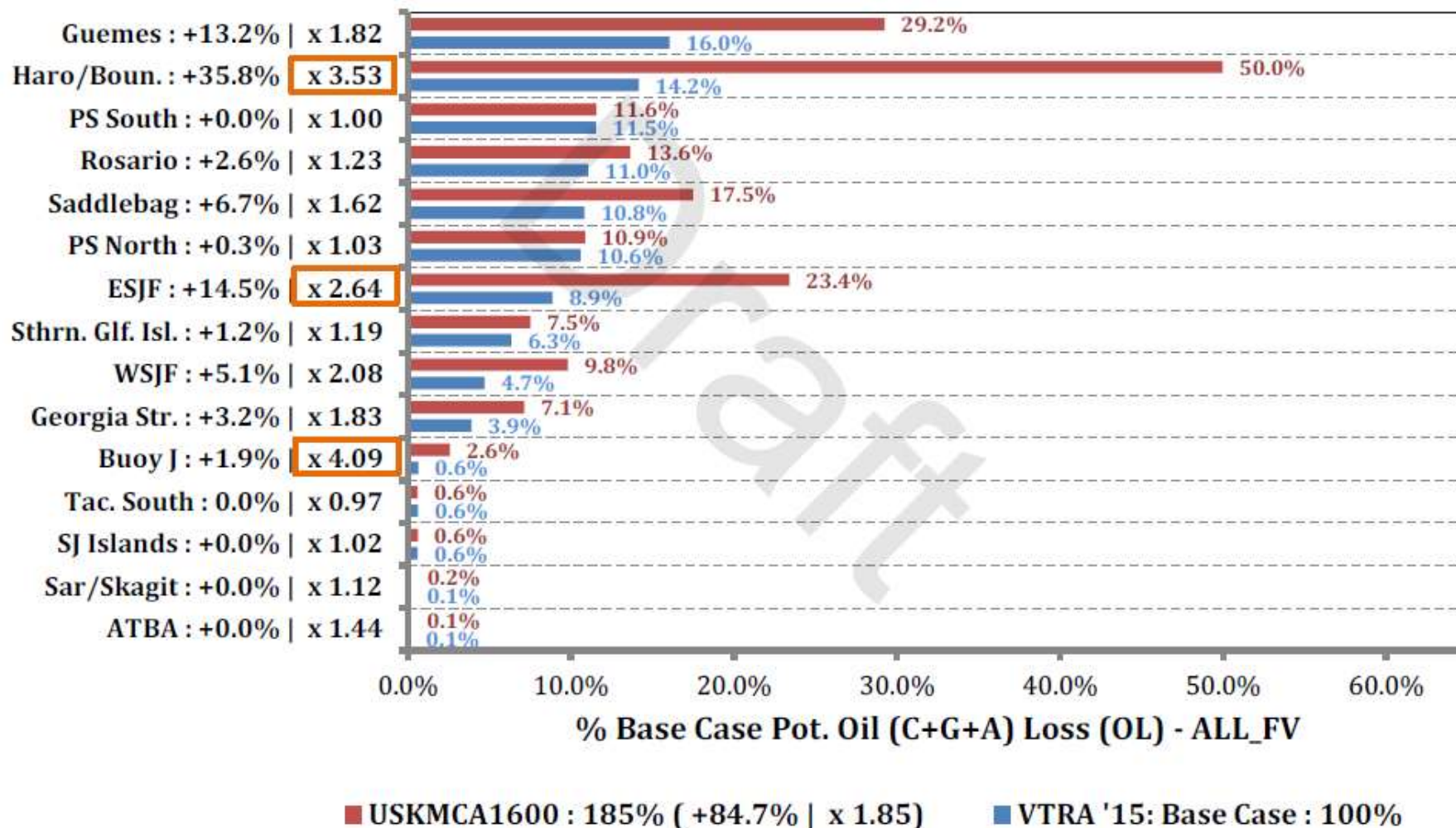
## USCAKM1600-5RMM 3D Risk Profile All FV - Pot.C+G+A.Oil Loss: 131% of Base Case POL



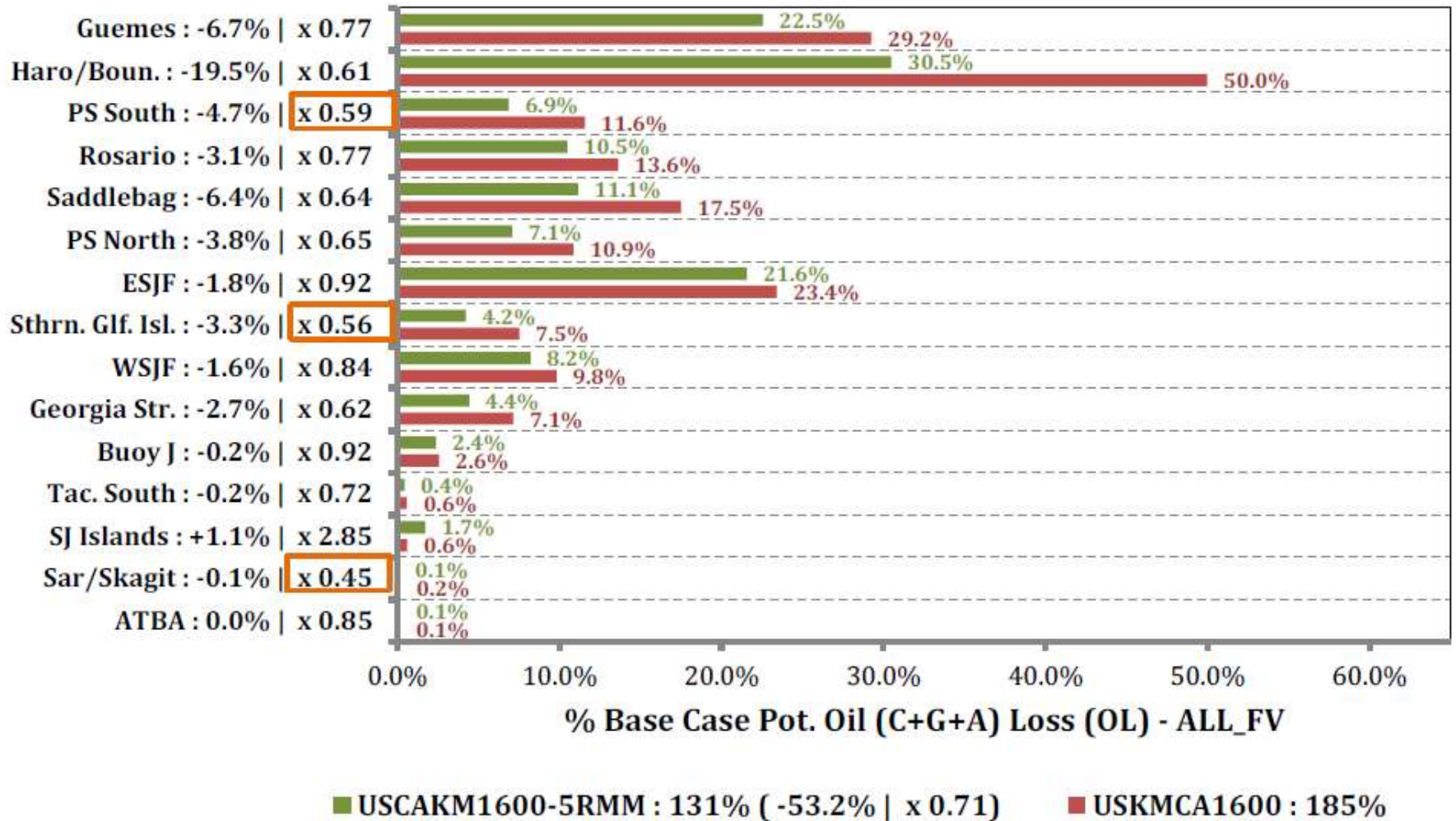
# VESSEL TRAFFIC RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA) 2015



## % Base Case Pot. Oil (C + G + A) Loss - ALL\_FV



## % Base Case Pot. Oil (C + G + A) Loss - ALL\_FV



# Conclusion

- 2015 VTRA final report provides:
  - **An information source** to help government, tribes, and stakeholders answer complex and location-specific risk management questions.
  - Valuable **insight into relative changes in risk, and potential benefits** that could be realized by a portfolio approach to risk reduction.
- 2015 VTRA Final Report and Ecology Focus Sheet are available here:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/prevention/RiskAssessment.html>



# 2016 Salish Sea Oil Spill Risk Mitigation Workshop Background:



**When:** October 18 -19, 2016



**Where:** Bellingham, WA



**Who:** ~ 75 representatives from US and Canadian agencies, Tribes, First Nations, Environmental Groups, Industry Groups, & Nonprofit Organizations



# Workshop Goal



Develop **actionable recommendations** to reduce the risk of oil spills from vessel traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Salish Sea



# Workshop Results

Rank	Risk Reduction Measure Description
1	Escort tank vessels including oil barges and Articulated Tug Barges in Puget Sound
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
4	Conduct a Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) for Port Angeles Precautionary Area and Rosario Strait
5	Share transboundary marine incident data
6	Support implementation of pending risk reduction measures
7	Broaden the oil spill prevention community: “Keep it in the tank”
8	a. Require a minimum 2-person bridge watch on tugs towing laden barges carrying pollutants in the Vessel Traffic System zone b. Require a minimum 2-person bridge watch on commercial vessels in reduced visibility.
9	Optimize anchorage number/ location





# Grays Harbor

- Ecology funded in 2017-2019 to conduct a vessel traffic risk assessment for Grays Harbor
- Builds on previous legislature-directed work
  - Completed an update to Puget Sound VTRA in January 2017
  - Draft report on the Columbia River Vessel Traffic Evaluation and Safety Assessment due to the legislature December 15, 2017
- Opportunity to document current baseline of oil spill prevention and preparedness; identify potential ideas for continuous improvement



# Grays Harbor VTRA - Goals

- Assess baseline and changing oil spill risks
  - Identify measures that could help reduce the risks of oil spills
- Assess oil spill response preparedness
  - Identify baseline response capability



# GH VTRA study approach

- Use a recognized, industry-standard framework – IMO Formal Safety Assessment - to conduct risk assessment
- Conduct a deliberative process
  - Focus on any known areas where improvements could be made



# IMO Formal Safety Assessment

- References: [IMO](#); [MSC 1023/MEPC 392](#)
- 5-step process

## FSA - a risk based approach

